# Bride of Deimos

5

Story / Etsuko Ikeda

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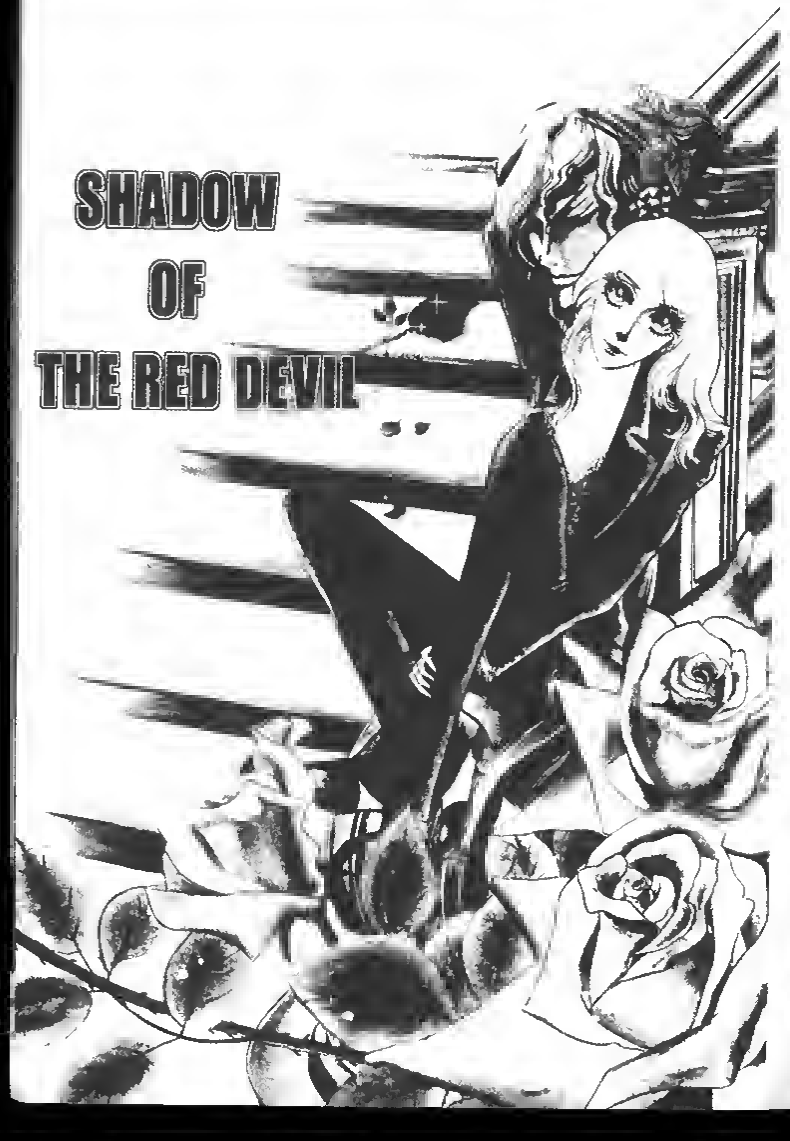
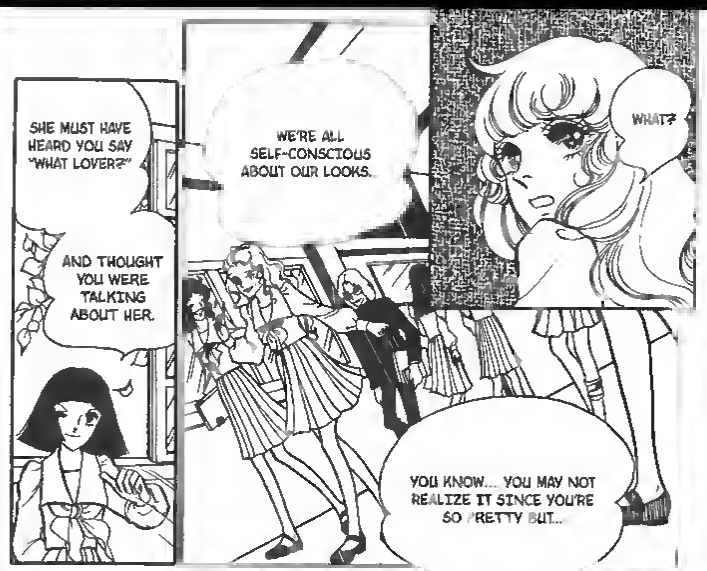
Yoshiko ie not one of the prettiest girls in school and feels everyone knows this. What happens when a handsome young man quickly falls in love with her - nothing good if Deimos is around! A strange skull shaped birthmark of a deceased friend begins showing up on others, is Deimos behind it? Find out in Bride of Deimos #5.


SHADOW
OF
THE RED DEVIL

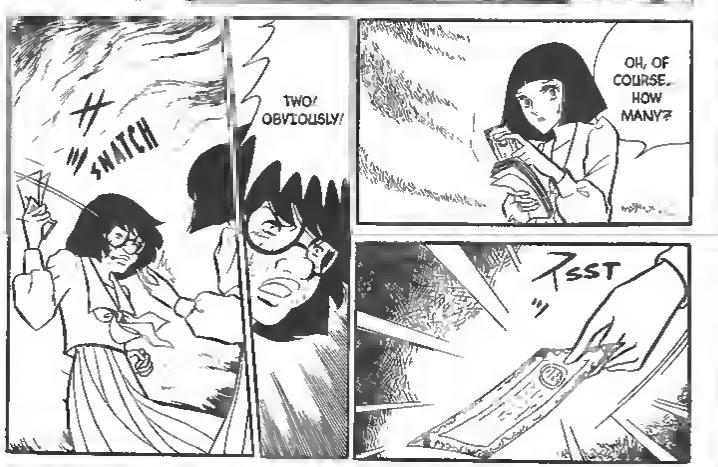
HEY GUYS! WE'RE HAVING A CONCERT THIS WEEKEND! TICKETS ARE CHEAP!
BRING YOUR GIRLFRIENDS AND BOYFRIENDS ALONG WITH YOU!
YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED IT'LL BE OUR BEST PERFORMANCE!
WHAT LOVER?
I HEARD YOU'VE GOT A SECRET LOVER BRING HIM ALONG! I'D LOVE TO MEET HIM!
UH, I...
MINAKO, I KNOW YOU WANT TWO!
ZING
ARE YOU KIDDING ME? WHAT LOVER?

THE SHADOW OF A ROSE DREAMS THE PRINCE SMILES AND BEGINS TO BLOOM
I AM THE SOLE FIGURE OF EXISTENCE THAT HE WILL SMILE FOR


SHE MUST HAVE HEARD YOU SAY "WHAT LOVER?"
AND THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT HER.
WE'RE ALL SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT OUR LOOKS..
WHAT?
YOU KNOW... YOU MAY NOT REALIZE IT SINCE YOU'RE SO PRETTY BUT...

SO YOU WANT TWO TICKETS, RIGHT?
DON'T SWEAT IT.
I'LL GO APOLOGIZE
OH DEAR SHE MUST HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD ME.

AM I ALLOWED TO BUY SOME?


SNATCH
TWO! OBVIOUSLY!
OH, OF COURSE.. HOW MANY?
SST

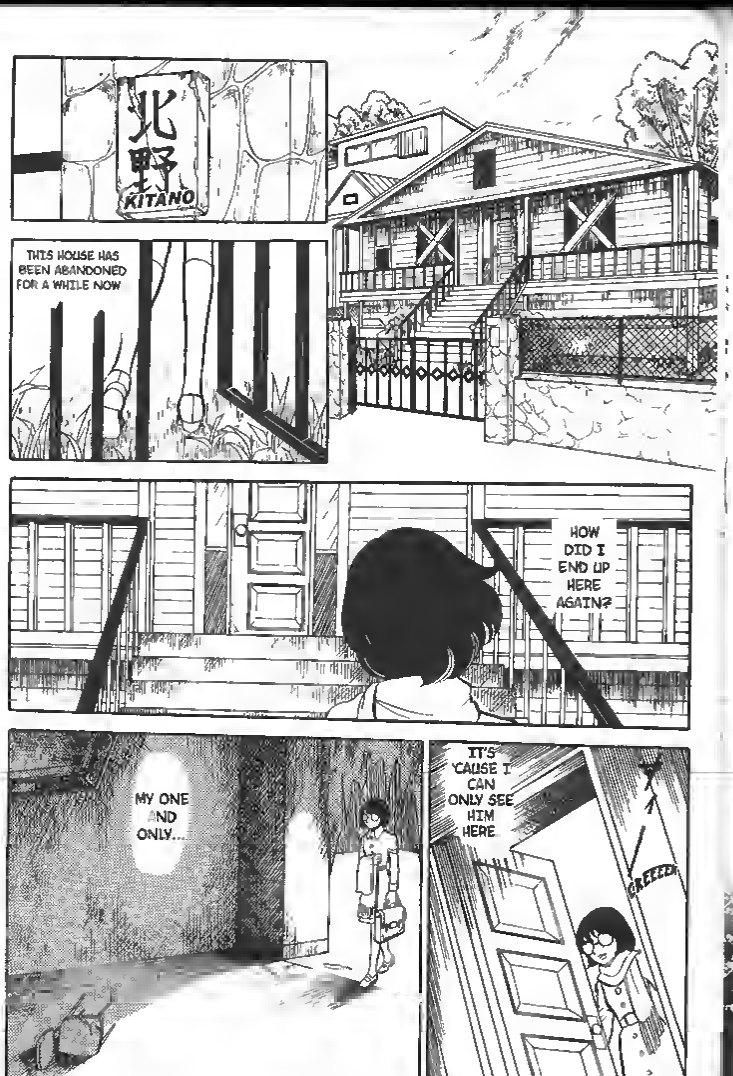
SHE MUST HAVE THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT HER
WHAT'S WITH HER?

生そば
SOBA-NOODLES
NAMI
WHY WON'T SHE MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH ME?
HMHM
RESTAURANT
THEY'RE COMPARING ME TO HER!
ROSE GARDEN

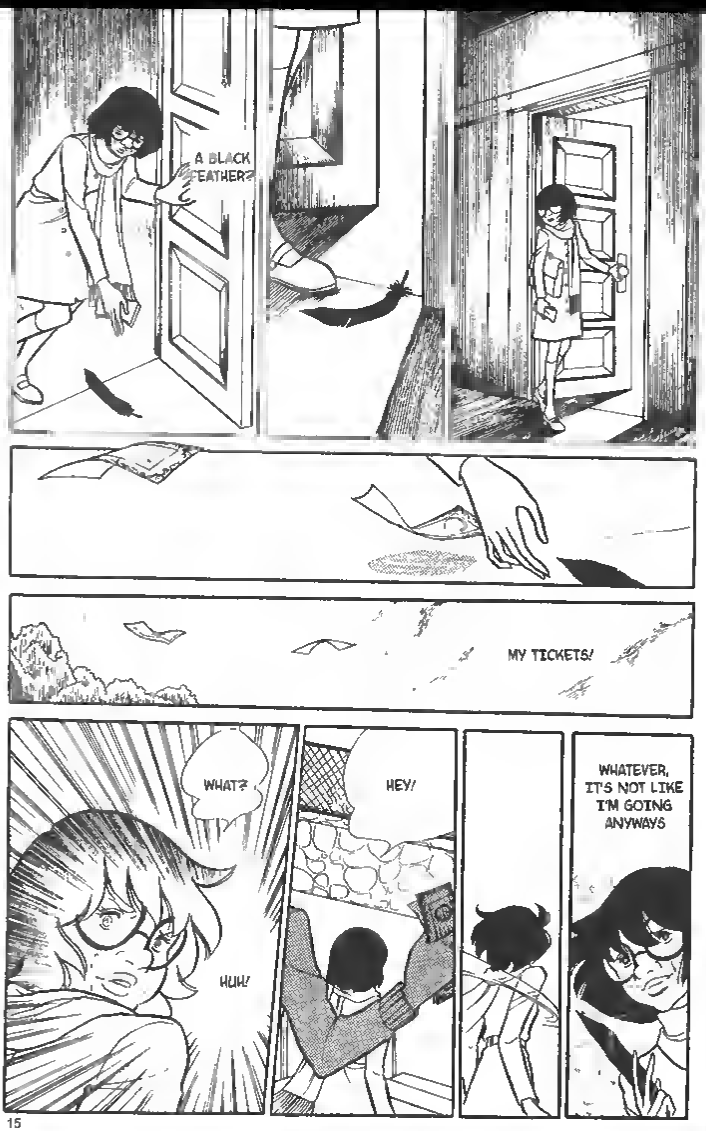
YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST.
WITHOUT EVEN THINKING TWICE ABOUT MY PHYSICAL QUALITIES.
IF I SHOW MY LOVE FOR YOU, YOU RETURN MY AFFECTION...
WANT TO WALK HOME TOGETHER?
YOSHIKO
SHE'S SO SWEET...

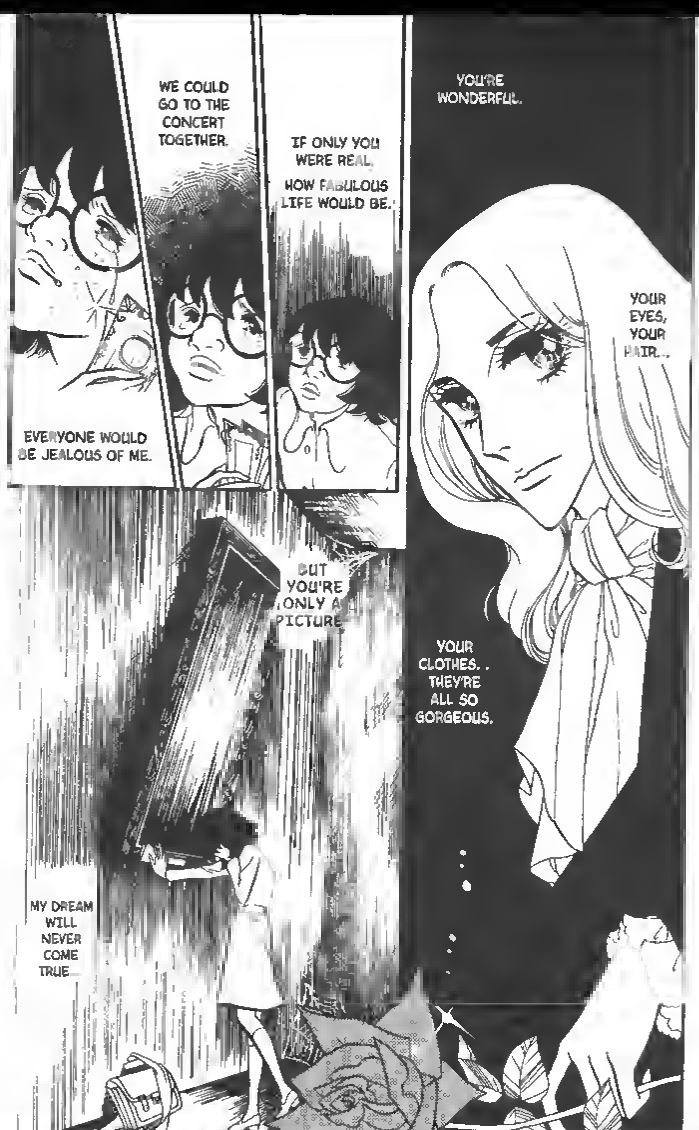
I... I...
WHY DID I EVEN AGREE TO WALK THE STREETS WITH SUCH A PRETTY GIRL?
DON'T TOUCH ME! I DON'T WANT TO BE USED TO MAKE YOU LOOK GOOD!
WAIT! WHAT'S WRONG?
BOOK STORE
PRINCE BOOKS
YOSHIKO!?
SOB SOB
I DON'T... HAVE... A BOYFRIEND
YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE! IT'S TRUE! I DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND!
NO! THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION AT ALL!
I JUST WANTED TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU ABOUT

YOSHIKO!
REALITY IS THAT THE UGLY GIRL WILL SUFFER HER WHOLE LIFE! IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW NICE AND CARING YOU MIGHT BE!
THE... WARM-HEARTED BUT PLAIN GIRL AND THE GORGEOUS PRINCE FALL IN LOVE AND...
UGH! I HATE STUPID FAIRY TALES!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
SLAM
SLAM
HEY SEXY!
I'D MUCH RATHER HAVE A CUTIE LIKE HER BUMP INTO ME!
HE HE HE
BACK OFF YOU HAG I CAN'T HAVE YOU RUININ' MY CLOTHES
I'M SORRY!


北野
KITANO
THIS HOUSE HAS BEEN ABANDONED FOR A WHILE NOW
HOW DID I END UP HERE AGAIN?
MY ONE AND ONLY...
IT'S 'CAUSE I CAN ONLY SEE HIM HERE
CREEEK

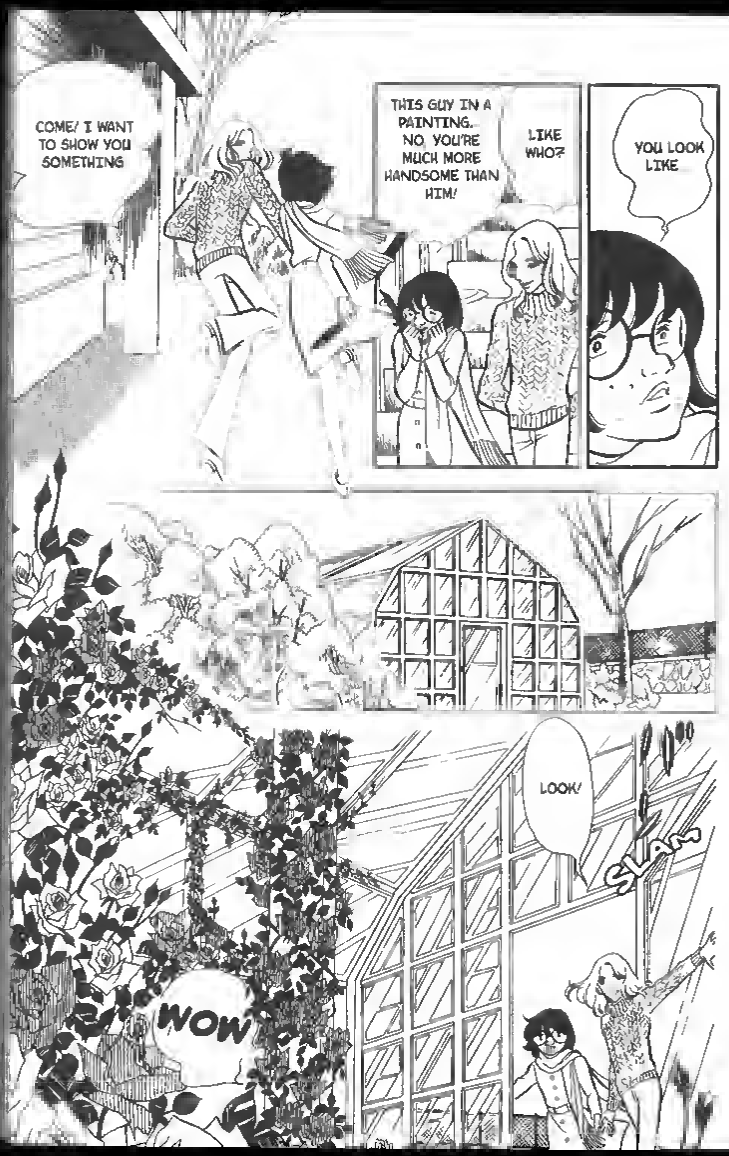
MY LOVER...
PORTRAIT OF JOJI
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL LOOK AT ME WITHOUT TURNING AWAY OR LAUGHING.
PORTRAIT OF JOJI
JOJI...


A BLACK FEATHER?
MY TICKETS!
WHAT?
HEY!
HUH?
WHATEVER, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING ANYWAYS

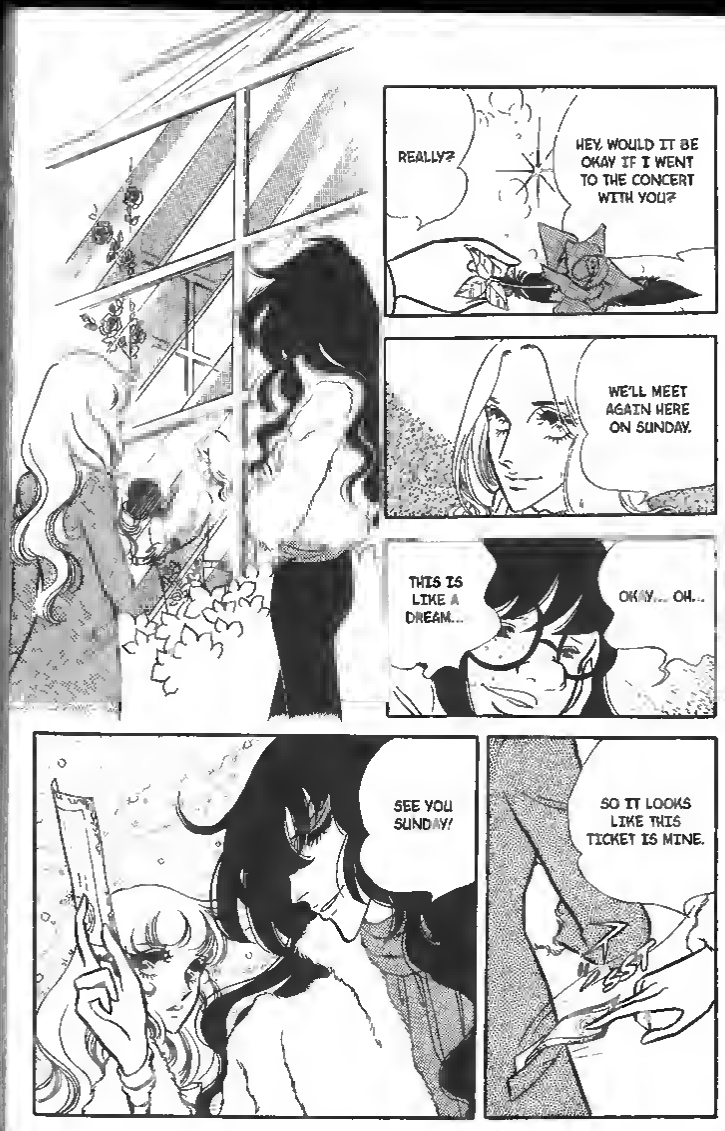

YOU'RE WONDERFUL.
YOUR EYES, YOUR HAIR...
YOUR CLOTHES... THEY'RE ALL SO GORGEOUS.
IF ONLY YOU WERE REAL, HOW FABULOUS LIFE WOULD BE.
WE COULD GO TO THE CONCERT TOGETHER.
EVERYONE WOULD BE JEALOUS OF ME.
BUT YOU'RE ONLY A PICTURE
MY DREAM WILL NEVER COME TRUE...

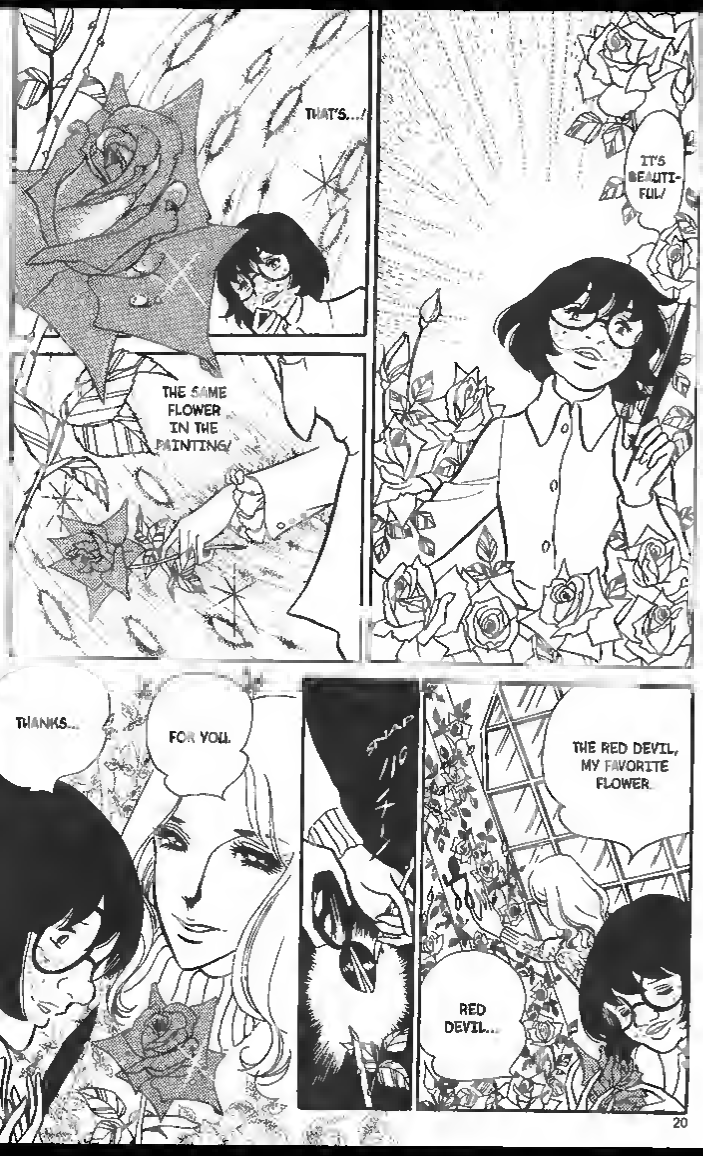
SHALL WE GO TO THE CONCERT AS A COUPLE?
HAH!
HELL HOUSE
STOP TURNING MY WORDS INTO RIDICULE
I WANT YOU TO BE YOSHIKO'S PARTNER
CIGARETTES
AS LONG AS IT'S SOMETHING I CAN DO AS YOUR LOVER
DEIMOS, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU
OH! A COUPLE..
EXCUSE ME
WHY? YOSHIKO DOESN'T..
NO CAN DO
AKITAYA
SHE SHOULD BE MEETING HER PARTNER RIGHT ABOUT NOW

HEH... THE UGLY GIRL SUFFERS
BUT, I GUESS THE PRETTY GIRL HAS HER TROUBLES AS WELL.
LET GO OF ME!
HEY SEXY! I CAN MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD, REAL GOOD!
COME ON CUTIE! PLAY WITH US FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
YOU'RE HORRIBLE! YOU WERE JUST SITTING THERE WATCHING THOSE GUYS HARASS ME!
DEIMOS!
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I SHOULD PROTECT YOU LIKE A BOYFRIEND WOULD?
HM?
COFFEE
HELL HOUSE


COME! I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING
THIS GUY IN A PAINTING. NO, YOU'RE MUCH MORE HANDSOME THAN HIM!
LIKE WHO?
YOU LOOK LIKE...
LOOK!
SLAM
WOW

I THINK YOU DROPPED THESE
AHHH... !?
YOU DON'T HAVE FRIENDS...
I... I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO GO WITH
REALLY? IT SAYS THE CONCERT'S THIS SUNDAY.
YEAH BUT IT'S GARBAGE.
YOU'RE ALL ALONE, TOO?
WELL NEITHER DO I!
LET'S BE FRIENDS!


REALLY?
HEY, WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I WENT TO THE CONCERT WITH YOU?
WE'LL MEET AGAIN HERE ON SUNDAY.
THIS IS LIKE A DREAM...
OKAY... OH...
SEE YOU SUNDAY!
SO IT LOOKS LIKE THIS TICKET IS MINE.
YES!

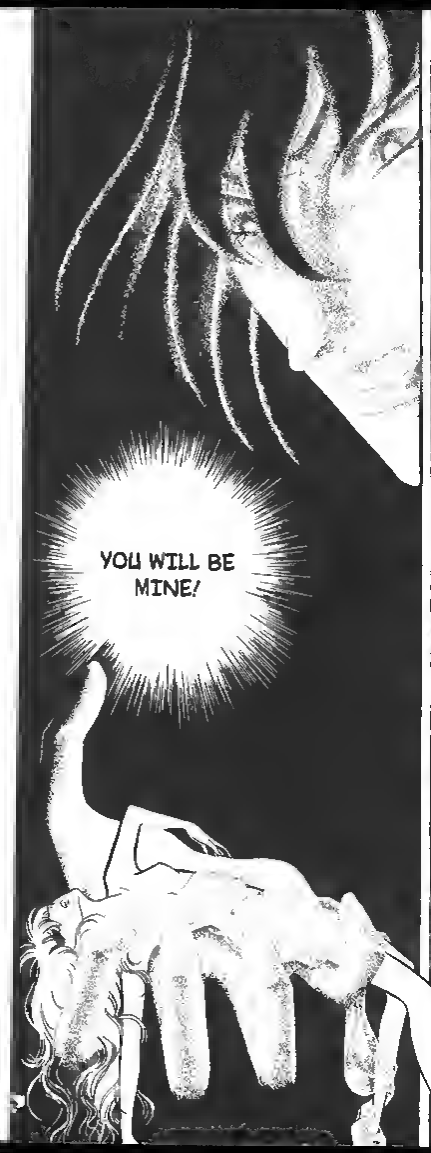

THAT'S...!
THE SAME FLOWER IN THE PAINTING!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
THANKS...
FOR YOU.
SNAP
RED DEVIL...
THE RED DEVIL, MY FAVORITE FLOWER.

はっはっはっはっはっ
MY MISSION IS TO LET AS MANY PEOPLE KNOW...
THAT MINAKO HAS A LOVER!
AND THAT...
MINAKO'S LOVER IS THE DEVIL!
THAT DEVIL IS ME, DEIMOS!

I SAW YOSHIKO HOLDING A BLACK FEATHER YOU ARRANGED THIS, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU THINK I DIDN'T NOTICE DEIMOS?
I WILL GO TO THE CONCERT AS YOUR PARTNER.
IT'S OKAY IN CONSIDERATION OF YOUR KINDNESS TOWARDS YOSHIKO
HE HE HE
YOU THINK I DID THAT FOR YOSHIKO OUT OF KINDNESS?
ARE YOU THAT NAIVE MINAKO?

ALL MINE!
I SAW YOU WITH YOUR BEAUTIFUL PRINCE!
YOSHIKO!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?
YOSHIKO HAS A BOYFRIEND!?
MINAKO!
STORM IS COMING!
MINAKO!

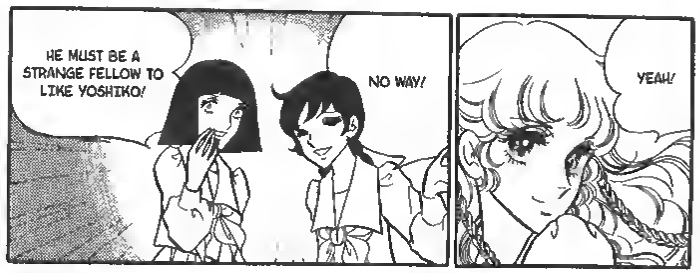


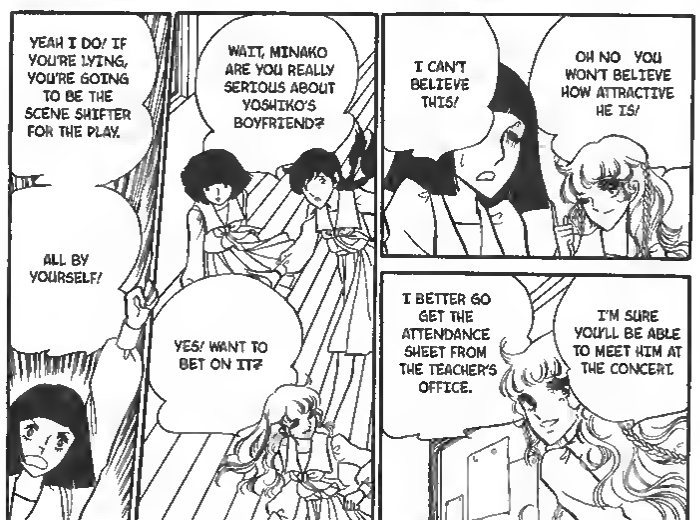

YOU WILL BE MINE!

YOU SHALL BE LOOKED AT WITH CONTEMPT AND SUFFER MORE THAN YOSHIKO.
AND BE HEDGED DOWN WITH THOSE COLD GAZES OF MOCKERY
THAT IS WHEN...

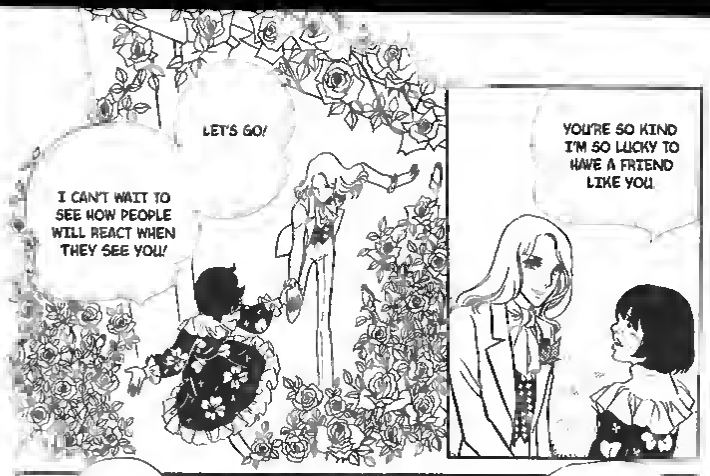
CONCERT HALL
受付
音楽祭
MUSIC CONCERT

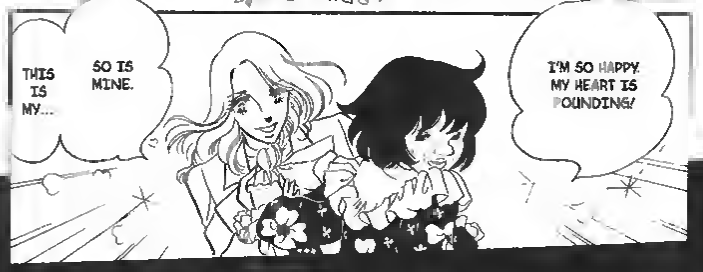
H... HI
SHE HONESTLY CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE'S WILLING TO BE HER PARTNER
HEY
HE'S HERE!


HE MUST BE A STRANGE FELLOW TO LIKE YOSHIKO!
NO WAY!
YEAH!

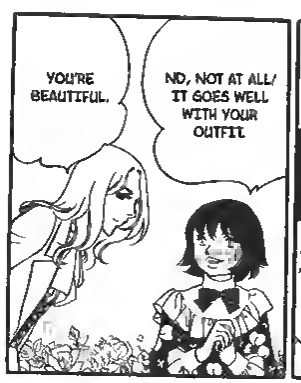

YEAH I DO! IF YOU'RE LYING, YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE SCENE SHIFTER FOR THE PLAY.
ALL BY YOURSELF!
WAIT, MINAKO ARE YOU REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT YOSHIKO'S BOYFRIEND?
YES! WANT TO BET ON IT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
OH NO YOU WON'T BELIEVE HOW ATTRACTIVE HE IS!
I BETTER GO GET THE ATTENDANCE SHEET FROM THE TEACHER'S OFFICE.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MEET HIM AT THE CONCERT.

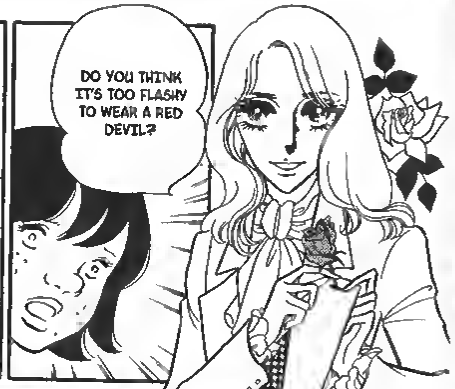
BAM...
シュルルル……
SSSSSH


LET'S GO!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW PEOPLE WILL REACT WHEN THEY SEE YOU!
YOU'RE SO KIND I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE A FRIEND LIKE YOU.


THIS IS MY...
SO IS MINE.
I'M SO HAPPY. MY HEART IS POUNDING!

FIRST TIME MEETING ANOTHER HUMAN


YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
NO, NOT AT ALL! IT GOES WELL WITH YOUR OUTFIT.


DO YOU THINK IT'S TOO FLASHY TO WEAR A RED DEVIL?

... ME!?
BEAUTIFUL?

YEAH.

YOU'RE THE FIRST... TO EVER SAY THAT TO ME...

HAH
NO! YOU CAN'T GO!
YOU CAN'T GO...
HEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHY NOT?
THAT THE OTHER GIRLS ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN I...
WITH THOSE EYES....
IF YOU GO, YOU'LL SEE..

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING FOR THE CHANCE TO SNEAK OUT OF THE HOUSE
YEAH I'VE BEEN SICK IN BED MY WHOLE LIFE.
I'M SICK OF ONLY SEEING MY WRINKLY OLD GRANDMA ALL THE TIME.
YOUR FIRST TIME... MEETING ANOTHER PERSON?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT I'M THE FIRST YOUNG PERSON YOU'VE EVER MET?
FLUTTER
YOUR GRANDMOTHER AND . . ME?
THE ONLY PEOPLE YOU'VE EVER SEEN ARE...
YEAH
YEAH.
OTHER GIRLS . . !
COME ON, LET'S GO I'M EXCITED TO SEE WHAT OTHER GIRLS LOOK LIKE.

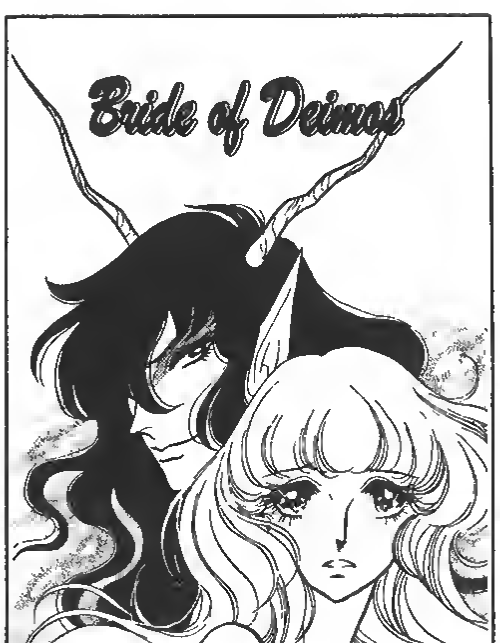
WHY DID YOU DO SUCH ..?
WHY DID YOU.
MINAKO! YOU MISSED YOUR CUE!
OH NO! I'M SORRY!

NO! I DON'T WANT YOU TO LIKE OTHER GIRLS!
CLANK
YOU'LL TURN OUT TO BE JUST LIKE THE OTHER BOYS.
AND NOT HAVE ANY INTEREST IN ME.
YOU ARE MINE!
MINE AND ONLY MINE!
AAUUUHHHH
DRIP
DRIP

THE DAY WHEN THAT UGLY YOSHIKO GETS A BOYFRIEND IS WHEN A FLOWER WILL BLOOM ON THE TOKYO TOWER!
YOU MUST BE NUTS TO MAKE A DEAL LIKE THAT MINAKO
SORRY, BUT A DEAL IS A DEAL YOU KNOW YOSHIKO HASN'T COME YET
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOSHIKO
AH AH AH
THANKS MINAKO! WE'RE OFF!
JOJI, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME.
MY ONE AND ONLY LOVER
I WAS SILLY TO ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT I COULD HAVE A LOVER

I EVEN WENT THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF LENDING YOU MY BODY... STUPID HUMANS!
I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN.
YOU COMPLETELY RUINED MY PLAN!

CRACK
BRIDE OF DEIMOS
SSST
AHHH! LIFE IS MYSTICAL AND YET SO MIRACULOUS!


Bride of Deimos

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IT LOOKS GORGEOUS ON YOU BUT DON'T YOU THINK MINK IS A LITTLE EXPENSIVE?
FUR COATS SHANGRI-LA
YEAH YEAH... MUST BE GREAT BEING RICH
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO ME, HE'S WILLING TO DRAIN ALL HIS SAVINGS!
YEAH, BUT MY DADDY BUYS ME ANYTHING HE'S SO CHEAP ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE.
MY DADDY CALLS ME A MONEY EATING BEETLE
YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE YOU MIGHT AS WELL USE UP ALL YOUR MONEY BEFORE YOU DIE!
MONEY IS WORTHLESS UNLESS YOU USE IT
YEAH BUT

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THESE UGLY CATERPILLARS...
WILL TRANSFORM INTO BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES!
THEY'LL SOON UNDERGO METAMORPHOSES AS WELL
THIS ONE
AND THIS ONE
AND HERE COMES ANOTHER BUTTERFLY
TOMOKO.
THERE YOU ARE, MINAKO.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO GO SHOPPING TODAY

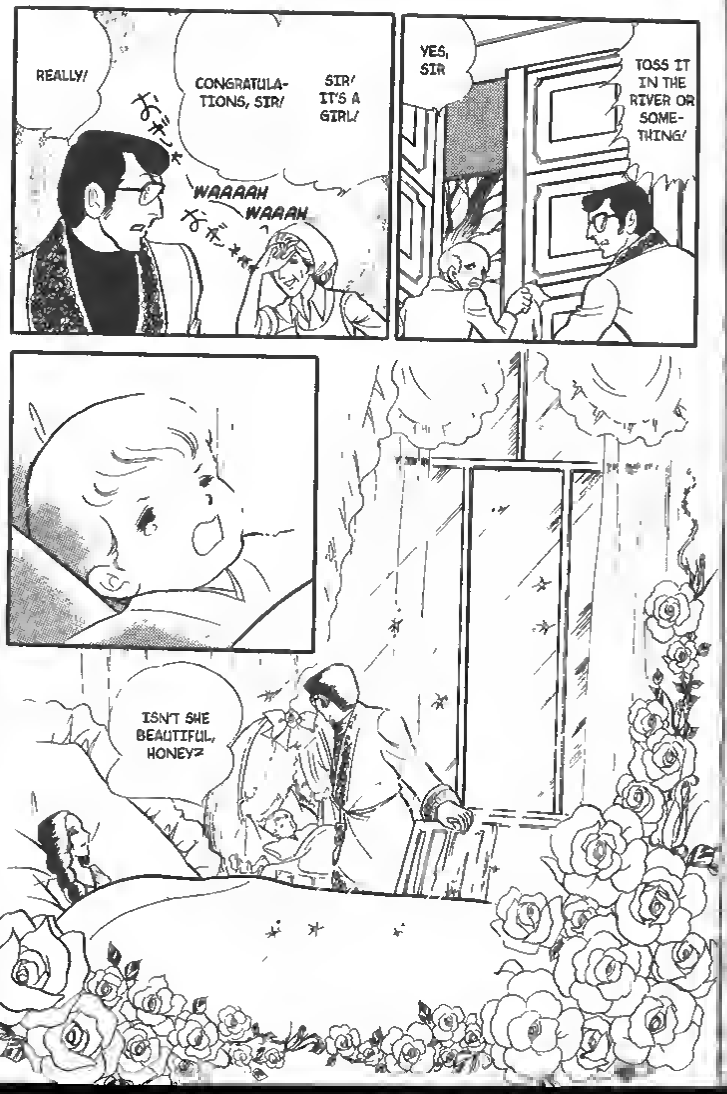
HE'S STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT.
YOU SURE THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A MONEY EATING BEETLE COCOON?
WHEN YOU LOOK AT ENOUGH INSECT METAMORPHOSES, YOU BEGIN TO BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF REINCARNATION
HEE HEE
WHAT?
WANT TO SEE IT?
THESE CARDS SPEAK OUR FATE
THIS... IS THE CHRYSALIS OF A MONEY EATING BEETLE!
BUT WE ALL REINCARNATE.
OUR BODIES MAY ROT TO THE GROUND BUT OUR SOULS LIVE ON .
WE ARE REBORN OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE IN REINCARN-ATION, MINAKO?
I WONDER WHAT THE COCOON OF A MONEY EATING BEETLE LOOKS LIKE.
SILLY/ NO SUCH THING EXISTS!
PEOPLE PREACH REINCARNATION TO PLEAD IN PROTEST AGAINST .
OUR EVIL ACTIONS AND OVERINDULGENCE

POOR THING I'LL FEED YOU RIGHT AWAY, OKAY?
MEOW !!
MEOW
MEOW
SHUT UP YOU STRAY CAT! GET LOST!
SPLASH
MY CAT IS NEARING DEATH
WE'RE COLD AND HUNGRY
SIR, I'M TERRIBLY SORRY TO BOTHER YOU PLEASE OFFER ME A HELPING HAND
OH A BEGGAR

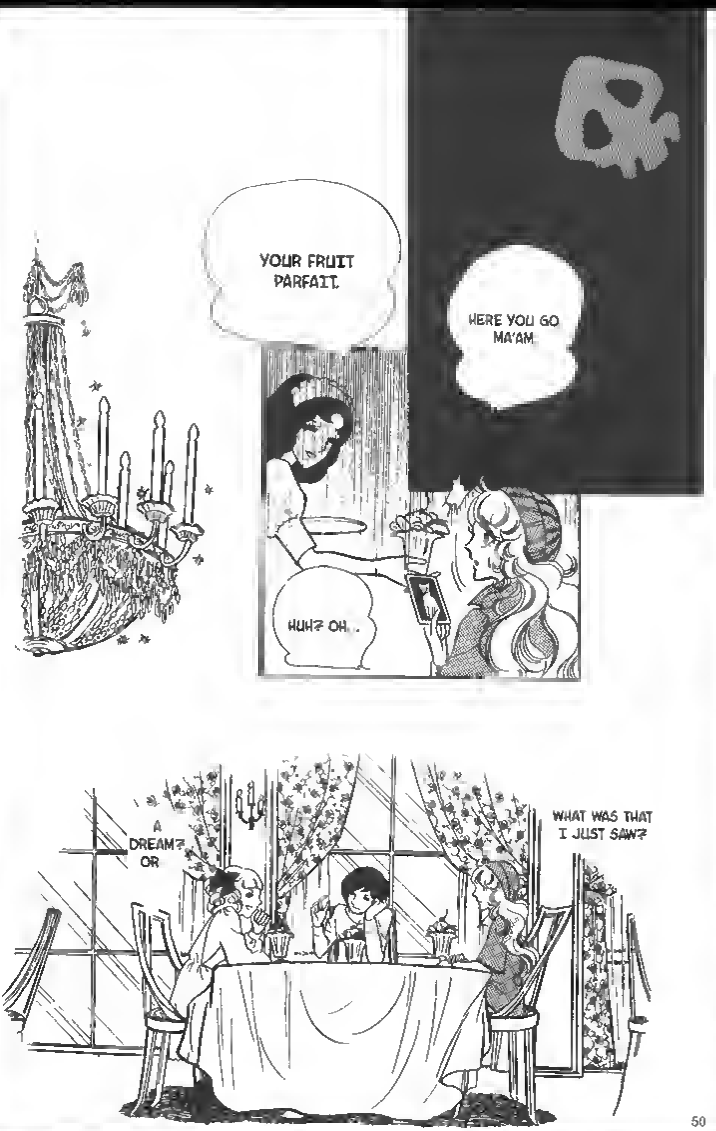
WE'LL SEE...!
SNAP
HE'S MAKING FUN OF YOU! LET'S GO!
IT'S A PICTURE OF A CAT.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NEXT?
DEIMOS
WHAT DO YOU SEE?

WHAT DOES YOUR CAT DYING HAVE TO DO WITH ME!? I HAVEN'T ANY MONEY FOR BEGGARS!
I AM ONLY ASKING FOR A LITTLE CHANGE AND SOMETHING WARM...
SLAM
GET LOST!
SHIRO, RICH PEOPLE ARE ALL COLD-HEARTED
AND THERE ARE PEOPLE LIKE ME WHO WAKE UP EVERY DAY FEELING HUNGRY AND COLD... WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THESE LIVES?
SOME PEOPLE LIVE LIFE LIKE THIS GUY. EATING WHATEVER THEY WANT AND ALWAYS HAVING A WARM PLACE TO COME HOME TO.
AS A RICH HUMAN...
YOU MUST BE SUFFERING, SHIRO. I'M SO SORRY.
I HOPE YOU CAN BE REBORN AS A HUMAN IN YOUR NEXT LIFE
HAA... はぁ HAA... はぁ
YES. WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH IT?
A DEAD CAT!?
IT'S NOT CHEAP CALLING A DOCTOR OVER!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! [illegible] GIVING BIRTH!
IDIOT! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT I CARE ABOUT A DEAD CAT!?

HI!
YES! AREN'T YOUR HANDS CUTE! THEY'RE LIKE MAPLE LEAVES!
I NEVER KNEW BABIES WERE THIS CUTE.
A SCAR!
IT LOOKS LIKE A SKULL!
DADDY WILL FIND A GOOD DOCTOR THAT'LL REMOVE IT FOR YOU. OKAY, SWEETIE PIE?
POOR THING. A GIRL SHOULDN'T HAVE SUCH A SCAR ON HER HAND.


REALLY!
CONGRATULATIONS, SIR!
SIR! IT'S A GIRL!
WAAAAH
WAAAH
YES, SIR
TOSS IT IN THE RIVER OR SOMETHING!
ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL, HONEY?

AHA...
AHA...
AHA...
ANYTHING AT ALL...
あぁ～ん
あぁ
WAAHHH WAAAAHH!
IT'S OKAY IT'S OKAY
AAAHH!
ふぁ...
NOW, NOW. YOU DON'T NEED TO CRY ANYMORE.
WAAH!
ふぇ?
COME HERE. DADDY WASN'T YELLING AT YOU, PRINCESS.
DADDY WILL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU, MY ANGEL.
CRASH
I'M SORRY, SIR
YOU ACTUALLY CALL YOURSELF A DOCTOR!? WHY DOES MY DAUGHTER HAVE A SCAR ON HER HAND?
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS!
HONEY, IT'S ONLY A SLIGHT SCRATCH.
YOU DON'T NEED TO...
YOU USELESS IDIOT!
SLAP

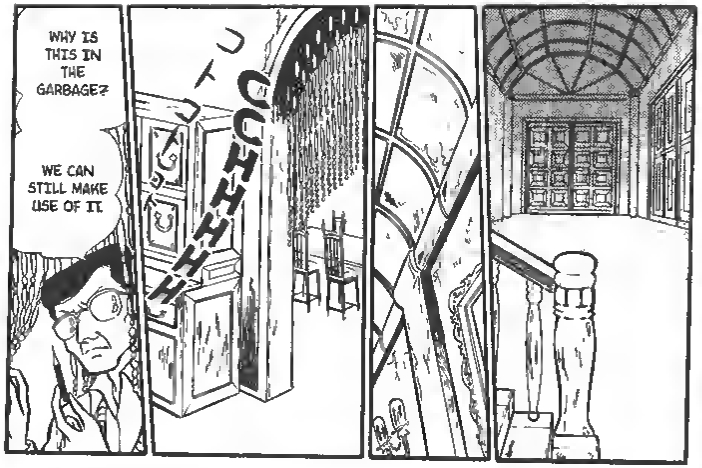

WHAT WAS THAT I JUST SAW?
A DREAM? OR
YOUR FRUIT PARFAIT.
HERE YOU GO MA'AM.
HUH? OH . .

OH!
MINAKO, YOU SEEM OUT OF IT. ARE YOU OKAY?
JUST A DELUSION?
SNATCH
YOU WERE STILL HOLDING ONTO THIS?
HE SEEMED LIKE A NICE PERSON BUT HE ONLY SPOKE LIES
YOU DON'T ACTUALLY BELIEVE SUCH A SILLY THING, DO YOU?
RIPRIP

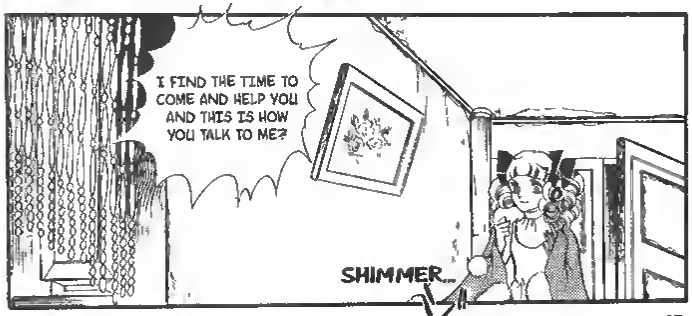
HEE
HEE
HEE
WEHE
I THINK I'M GOING TO END UP SPENDING ALL OF MY DAD'S SAVINGS
ALL OF IT!

I'VE HAD IT SINCE I WAS BORN. NONE OF THE DOCTORS SEEM TO BE ABLE TO GET RID OF IT.
OH, THIS?
THAT SCAR...
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS HIDE IT WITH A GLOVE.
COME ON! ORDER WHATEVER YOU WANT! MY TREAT!
GREAT! LET'S GO ALL OUT!

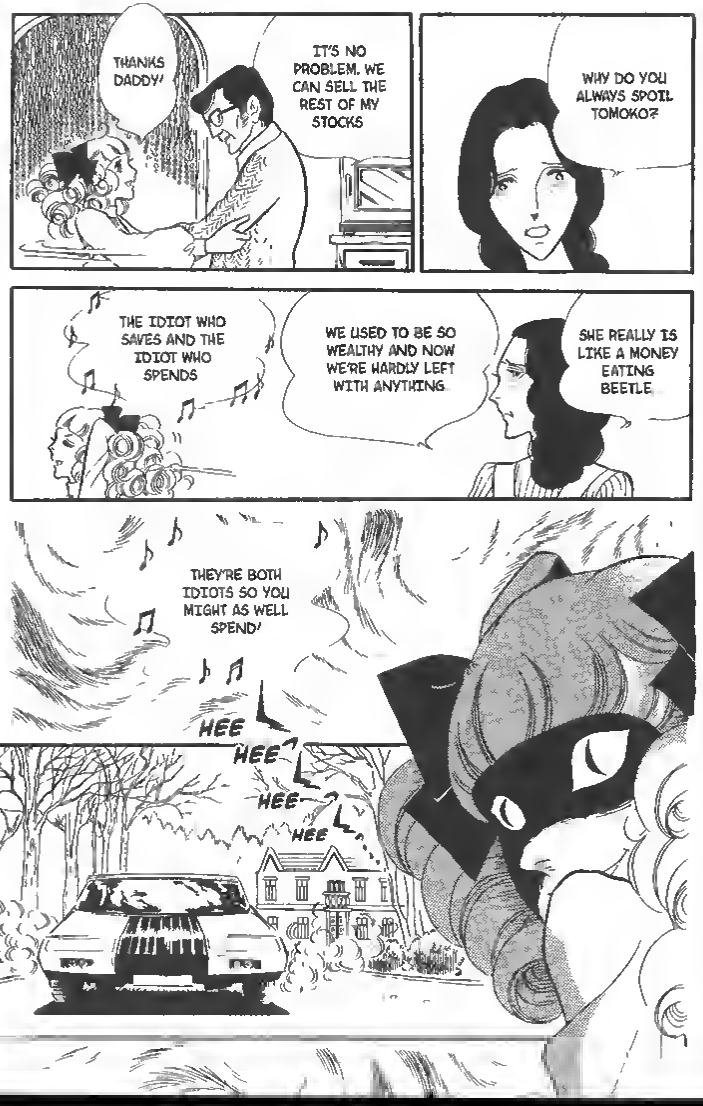
TOMOKO!


WHY IS THIS IN THE GARBAGE?
WE CAN STILL MAKE USE OF IT
コトコトコト
CUCHHHH

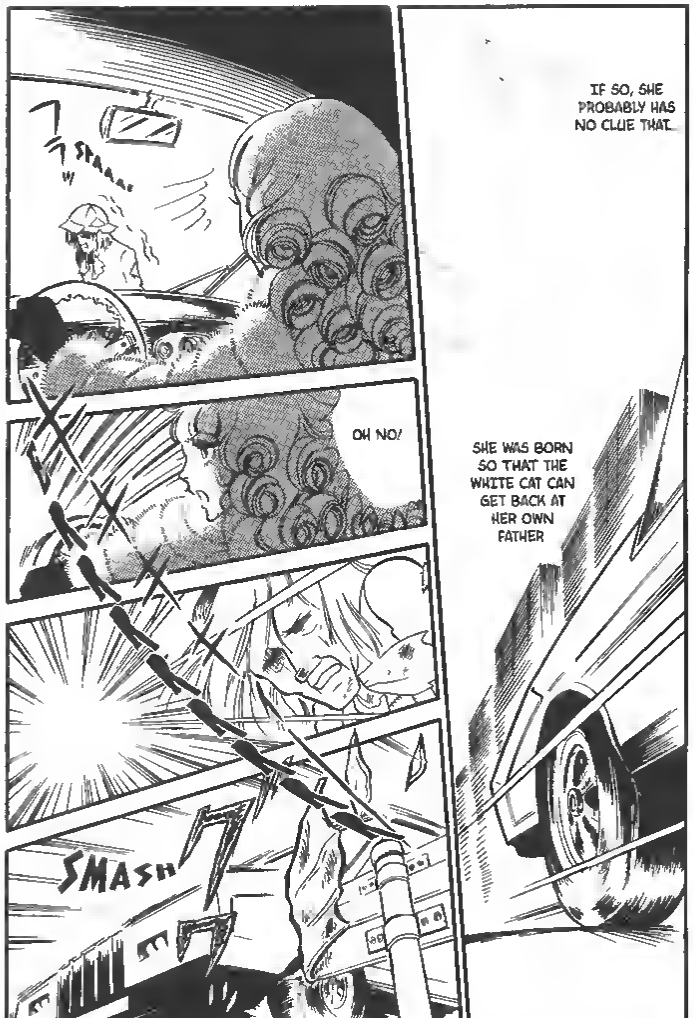
DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO CUT VEGETABLES/ LOOK HOW MUCH YOU'VE WASTED/
PLEASE DON'T BE SO NIT PICKY/
コトコトコト
CUCHHHH


I FIND THE TIME TO COME AND HELP YOU AND THIS IS HOW YOU TALK TO ME?
SHIMMER...

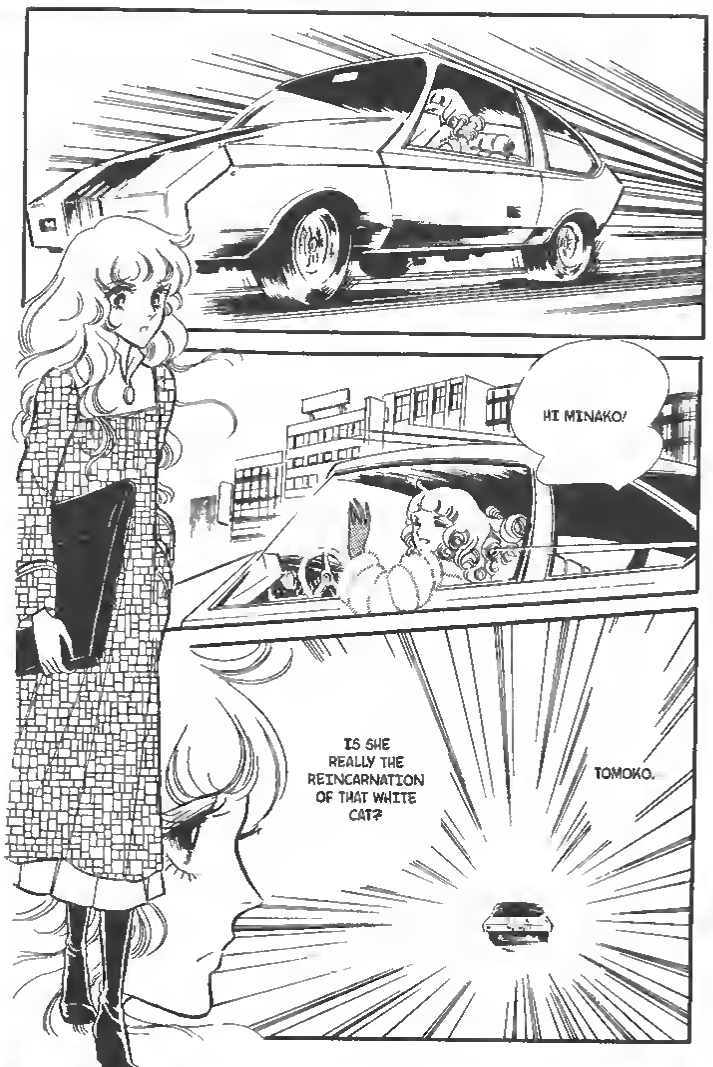
HEY, THERE'S NO NEED TO BLAME IT ON TOMOKO
WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS?
YOU TWO ARE AT IT AGAIN?

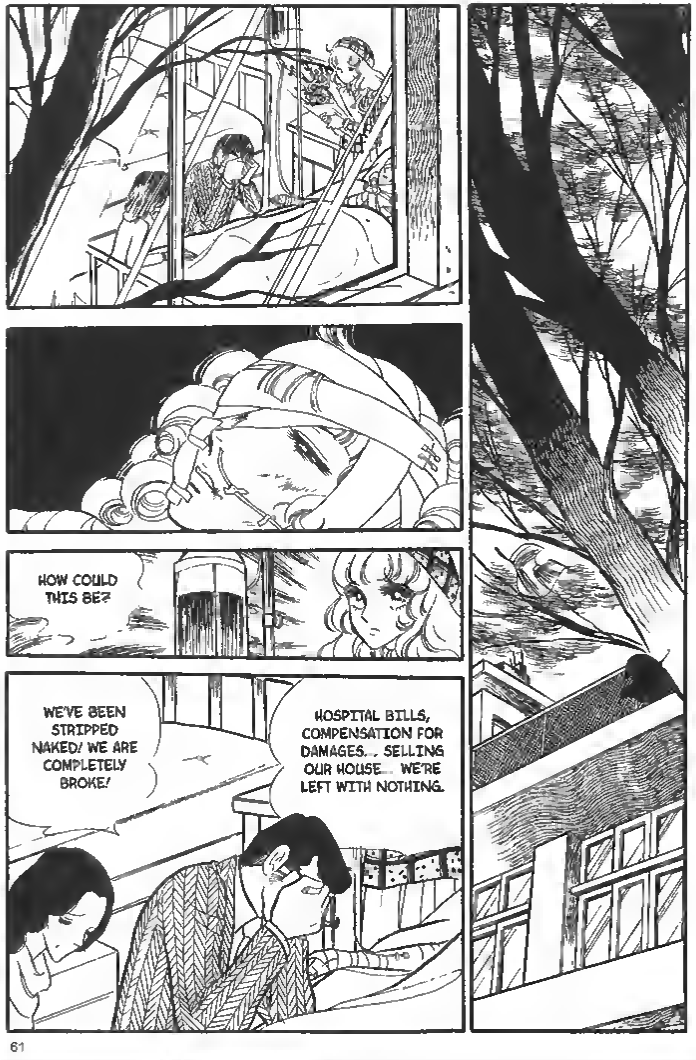

THANKS DADDY!
IT'S NO PROBLEM. WE CAN SELL THE REST OF MY STOCKS
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS SPOIL TOMOKO?
THE IDIOT WHO SAVES AND THE IDIOT WHO SPENDS
WE USED TO BE SO WEALTHY AND NOW WE'RE HARDLY LEFT WITH ANYTHING
SHE REALLY IS LIKE A MONEY EATING BEETLE
THEY'RE BOTH IDIOTS SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL SPEND!
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE

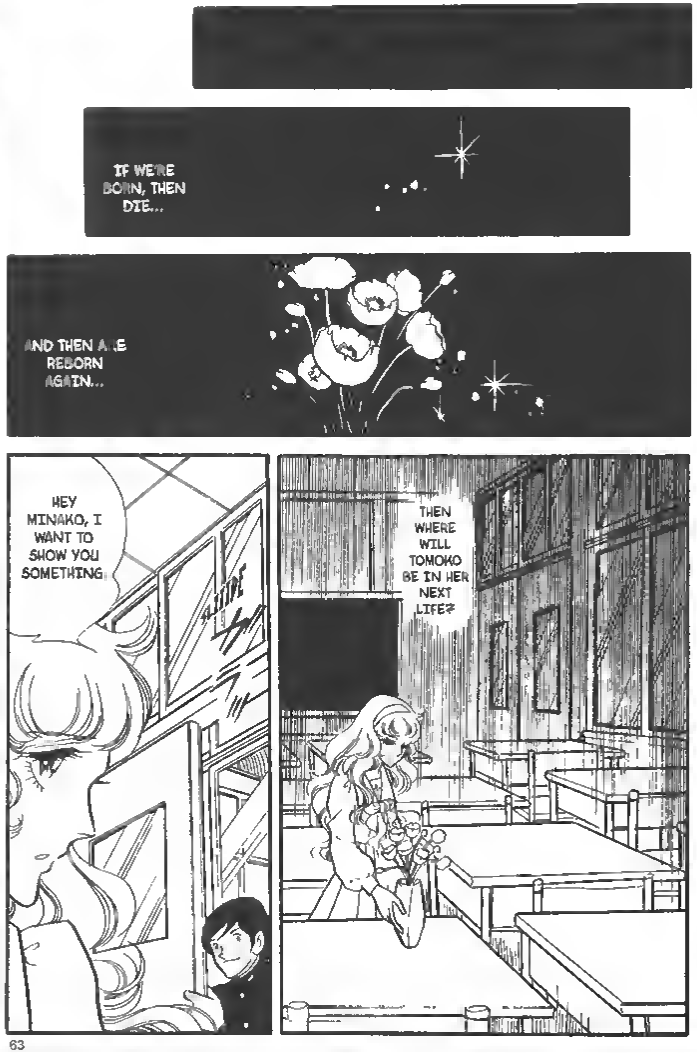
NO, TOMOKO!
WE'RE NOT AS WEALTHY AS WE USED TO BE!
DADDY, THERE'S A REALLY NICE SPORTS CAR THAT I WANT
I LOVE YOU DADDY YOU'RE ALWAYS ON MY SIDE!
BUT I WANT IT
PLUS, YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO DRIVE
OKAY, BUT ONLY IF YOU REALLY NEED IT
PLEASE DADDY!
CAN I BUY IT UNDER YOUR NAME?


IF SO, SHE PROBABLY HAS NO CLUE THAT
SHE WAS BORN SO THAT THE WHITE CAT CAN GET BACK AT HER OWN FATHER
STAAA
OH NO!
SMASH




HI MINAKO!
IS SHE REALLY THE REINCARNATION OF THAT WHITE CAT?
TOMOKO.


HOW COULD THIS BE?
WE'VE BEEN STRIPPED NAKED! WE ARE COMPLETELY BROKE!
HOSPITAL BILLS, COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES... SELLING OUR HOUSE... WE'RE LEFT WITH NOTHING.


IF WE'RE BORN, THEN DIE...
AND THEN AGAIN WE REBORN AGAIN...
HEY MINAKO, I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.
THEN WHERE WILL TOMOKO BE IN HER NEXT LIFE?

TOMOKO WAS DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENSE.
WE CAN'T DO ANY-THING ABOUT IT.
HE WAS ONLY LIGHTLY SCARRED AND HE WALKED AWAY WITH THE INDEMNITIES
I'D KILL THAT BUM IF I COULD.
TOMOKO!
TOMOKO!?
TOMOKO!
FLAP
TOMOKO!

LOOK IT HAS TRANSFORMED INTO A BUTTERFLY!
SCIENCE LAB
WHAT IS IT?
YOU'LL SEE.
SLIIIIP

TO.. TOMOKO!
YOU'VE BEEN
NO!
THIS IS A RARE ONE IT'S GOT A SKULL-LIKE SPOT ON ITS WING I'M GOING TO MOUNT THIS ONE

REINCARNATION.

IS THE DEVIL'S GARLAND...

ISN'T IT AMAZING? I'LL NEED TO GET SOME NAPHTHALENE TO PREVENT IT FROM DECAYING

DID YOU HAVE TO TEACH ME ABOUT THIS IN SUCH A CRUEL MANNER?

TISH

BZZZZZZZ

NO DON'T!

BZZZZZZZ

BZZ

FLAP

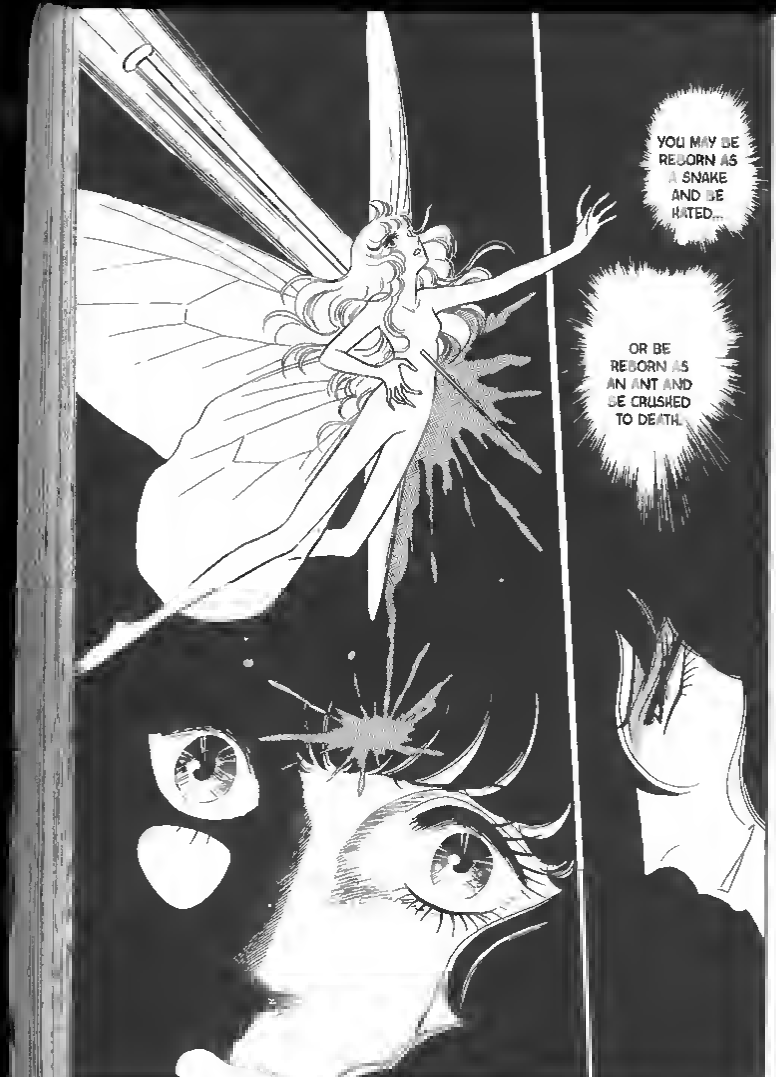
THEY THAT LIVE LONGEST MUST EVENTUALLY DIE. WE NEVER MEET WITHOUT A PARTING. WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND. THAT IS THE WAY OF THE WORLD...
DON'T YOU THINK THOSE ARE WORDS, OF WISDOM MINAKO?

STOP! SUCH BUDDHIST WISDOM DOES NOT SUIT YOU ONE SINGLE BIT!

THE SAME AS YOU.
YOU MAY BE REBORN AS A CAT OR A CATERPILLAR

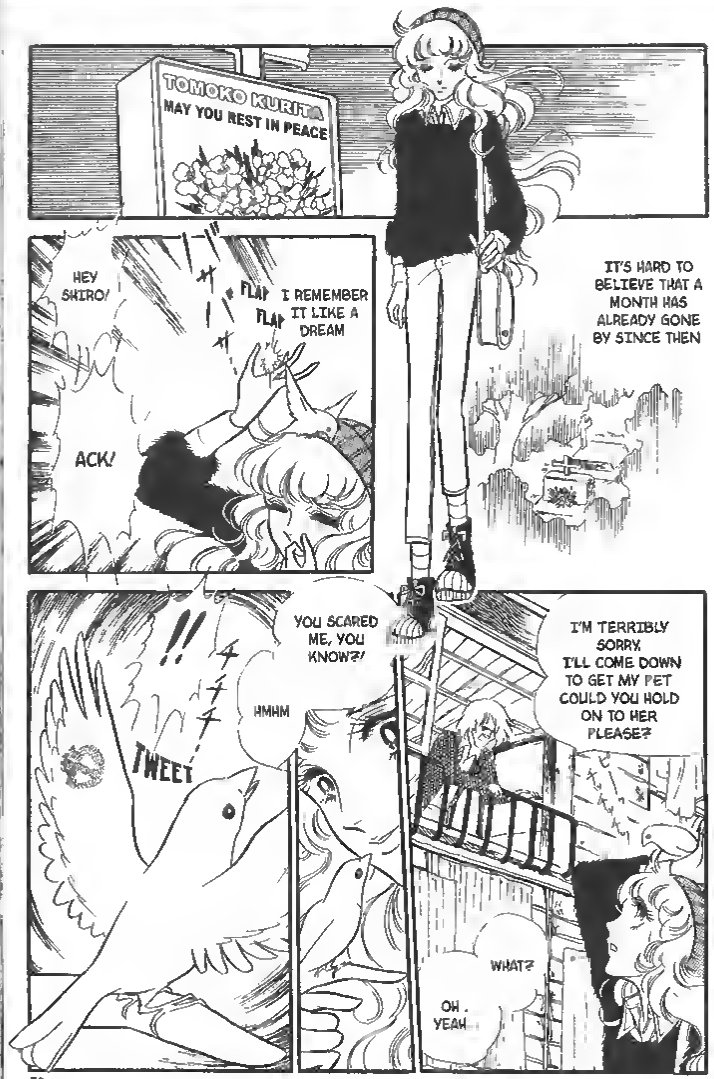
WHAT WILL SHE BE REBORN AS NEXT TIME?
I FEEL BAD FOR TOMOKO. SHE GETS REINCARNATED OVER AND OVER AGAIN




YOU MAY BE REBORN AS A SNAKE AND BE HATED...
OR BE REBORN AS AN ANT AND BE CRUSHED TO DEATH.

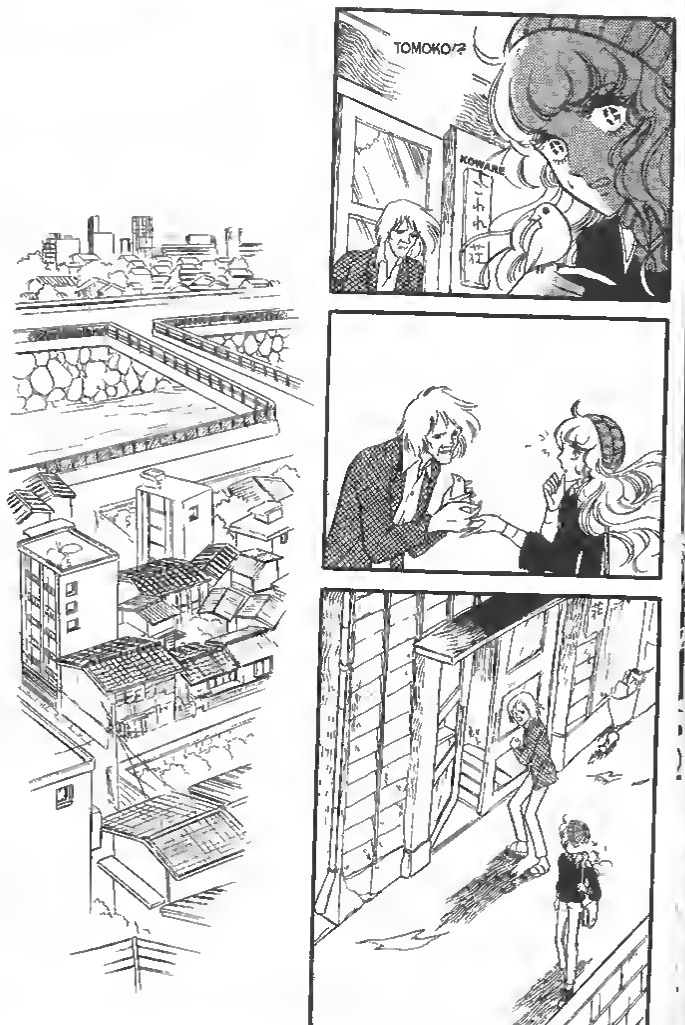
DEATH SCARES ME...
ETERNALLY YOUNG AND ETERNALLY BEAUTIFUL...
IF I TAKE HIS HAND, I WILL NEVER BE REINCARNATED.

TO HADES.
COME WITH ME, MINAKO
COME WITH ME MY BRIDE!
I WILL PROMISE YOU ETERNAL YOUTH AND ETERNAL BEAUTY
WILL LEAD YOU TO IMMORTALITY.
THIS HAND


TOMOKO KURITA
MAY YOU REST IN PEACE
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A MONTH HAS ALREADY GONE BY SINCE THEN
HEY SHIRO!
FLAP FLAP
I REMEMBER IT LIKE A DREAM
ACK!
TWEET
YOU SCARED ME, YOU KNOW?!
HMHM
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY. I'LL COME DOWN TO GET MY PET COULD YOU HOLD ON TO HER PLEASE?
WHAT?
OH. YEAH

THE BIRTH OF A LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL.
SIGH.. IS IMMORTALITY WHAT I WANT?
THERE IS BIRTH BECAUSE THERE IS DEATH
ZING
AN INCOMPARABLE BEAUTY!

# FROM HADES

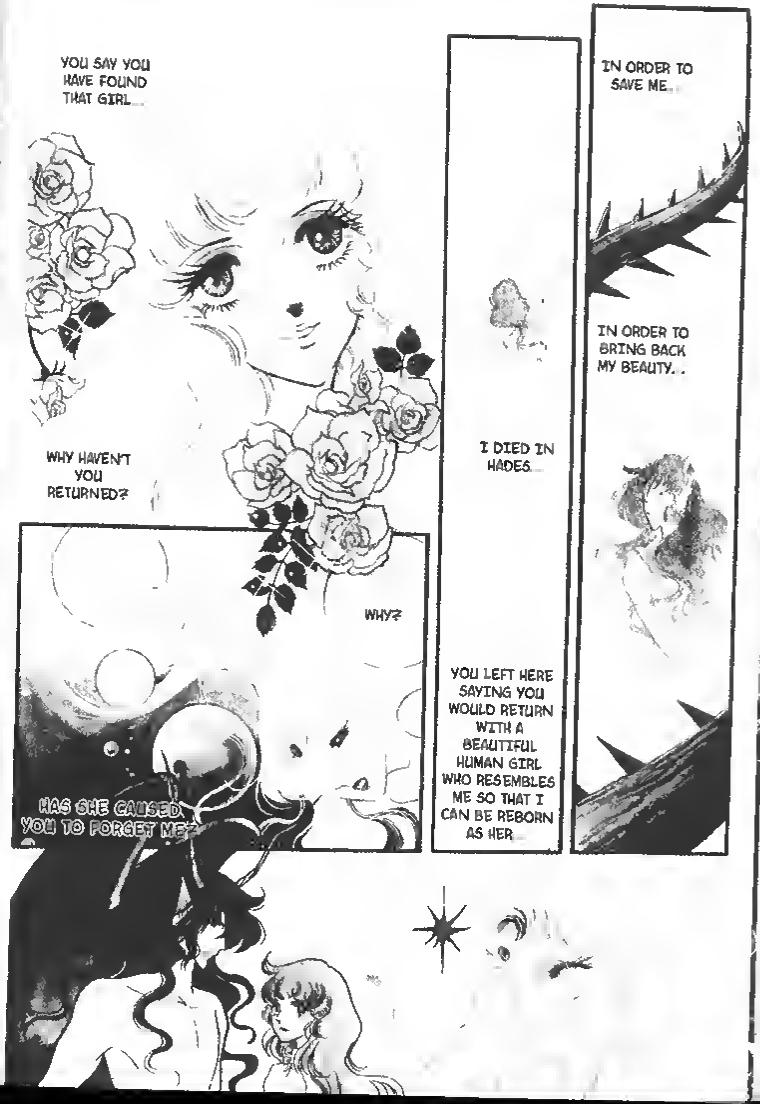


HOW COULD THERE BE A PUNISHMENT ANY MORE HARSH AND SEVERE THAN THIS ONE
I USED TO BE CALLED VENUS
AND WAS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL ON MOUNT OLYMPUS

BLUP
BLUP

I SHALL ROT ALIVE. MY BODY SHALL DECAY UNDER THE WAVES.
AND THIS IS THE PUNISHMENT I GET FOR LOVING HIM.
MY BELOVED BROTHER! DEIMOS!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU RETURNED?
HE WAS MY EVERYTHING. MY LOVE.
AND MY BROTHER WAS THE MOST HANDSOME. THE MOST ALLURING.
THUNDER

DEIMOS... DON'T TELL ME YOU...
AND HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THAT HUMAN BRIDE-TO-BE
... DON'T LOVE ME ANYMORE BECAUSE OF MY ROTTEN BODY...
THIS CAN'T BE!
NO, THIS CAN'T BE!
MY LOVE FOR YOU HASN'T FADED...
AND EVEN NOW...
I BETRAYED GODS TO LOVE YOU, MY BROTHER!


YOU SAY YOU HAVE FOUND THAT GIRL...
WHY HAVEN'T YOU RETURNED?
I DIED IN HADES...
IN ORDER TO SAVE ME...
IN ORDER TO BRING BACK MY BEAUTY...
WHY?
YOU LEFT HERE SAYING YOU WOULD RETURN WITH A BEAUTIFUL HUMAN GIRL WHO RESEMBLES ME SO THAT I CAN BE REBORN AS HER...
HAS SHE CAUSED YOU TO FORGET ME?

HER NAME IS IWAKO TOMIYA!
GUYS! GUYS! WE HAVE A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'D THINK, RIGHT?
I BET SHE'S BUSTY LIKE OIWA!
IWAKO? LIKE OIWA IN "YOTSUYA KAIDAN*?"
HI, I'M IWAKO TOMIYA. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU ALL
SHE LOOKS A LOT LIKE MINAKO
DAMN SHE'S HOT!

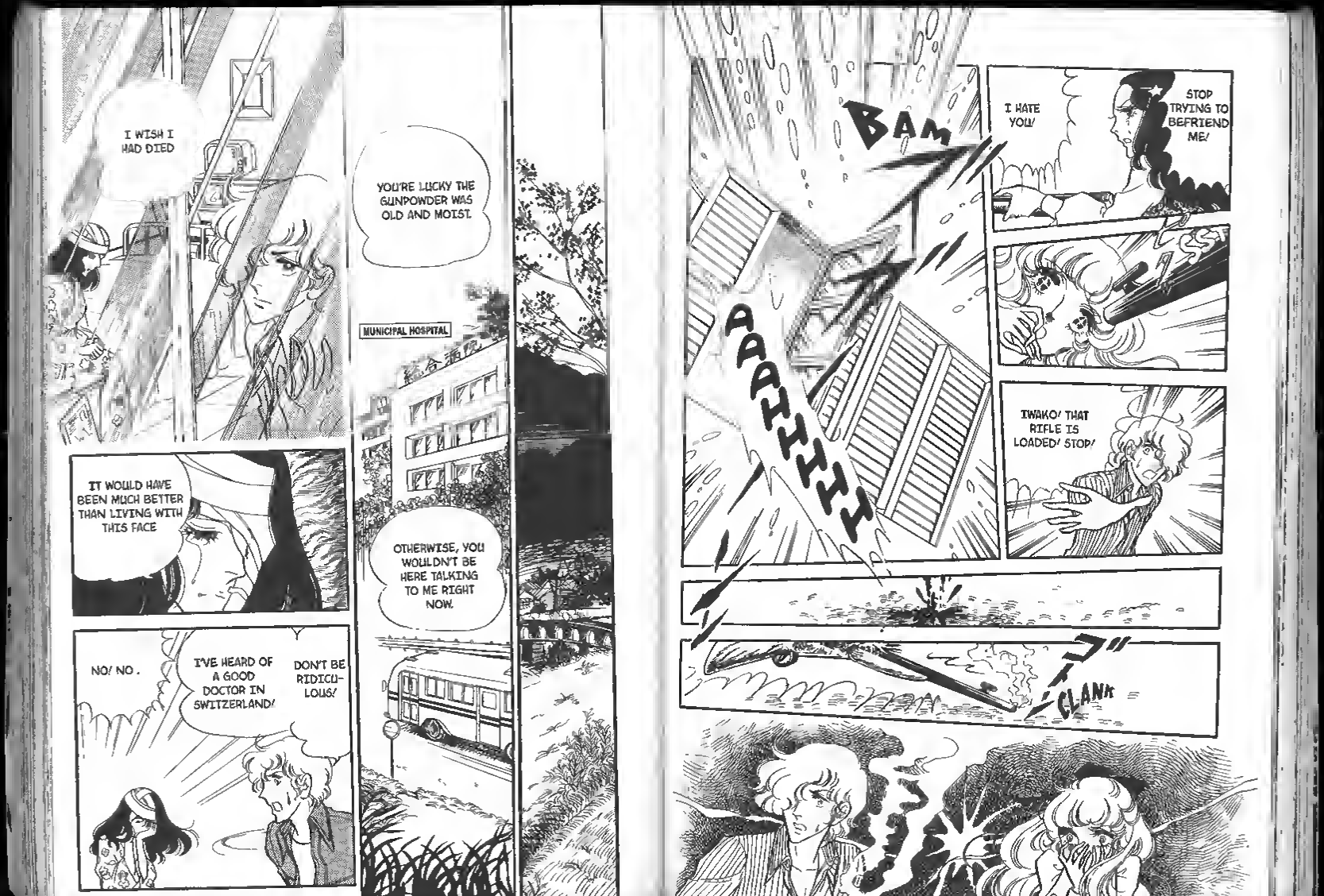
*Yotosuya Kaidan = Japanese ghost story written by Tsuruya Nanboku IV

WHY DON'T YOU COME IN FOR A WHILE?
HERE? IT'S RIGHT BY MY HOUSE!
YEAH, WHY NOT?!
REALLY?
SO MUCH FOR PEACE AND QUIET.
HI I DIDN'T BOTHER RINGING THE BELL
UUUH HI
MINAKO, THIS IS MY FIANCE MITSURU TERAYAMA.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU

IS THIS SOME SORT OF BEAUTY CONTEST?
HA HA!
AW MAN! THE SEAT NEXT TO MINE IS AVAILABLE, TOO!
HI!
BLOSH
THE SEAT NEXT TO MINAKO'S IS AVAILABLE.
NOTICE
SCHEDULE
MASAKI REAL ESTATES
NO. I'M ON MY WAY TO MY FRIEND'S PLACE.
DO YOU LIVE IN THIS AREA AS WELL?
HEY!
CAKE

ZING
A SISTER!?
LIKE A SISTER
WE GREW UP TOGETHER SO I THINK OF HER MORE AS THE TOMBOY WHO WAS A BIT OF A CRYBABY
GRAB
GET OUT OF HERE, MINAKO!
IWAKO!
LEAVE US ALONE!

OUR PARENTS HAD ALREADY ARRANGED OUR MARRIAGE BY THEN
SO IT'S KIND OF HARD TO THINK OF HER AS MY FIANCE.
THIS IS WHEN IWAKO WAS THREE
AW... SHE WAS ADORABLE!
MITSURU ONLY PAYS ATTENTION TO MINAKO
OH, I THINK YOU GUYS LOOK CUTE TOGETHER
SHE'S MORE LIKE A SISTER TO ME.
HE NEVER LOOKS AT ME WITH PASSION THE WAY HE'S LOOKING AT HER.
HE ONLY LOOKS AT ME WITH KIND EYES.


I WISH I HAD DIED
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER THAN LIVING WITH THIS FACE
NO! NO.
I'VE HEARD OF A GOOD DOCTOR IN SWITZERLAND!
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!
YOU'RE LUCKY THE GUNPOWDER WAS OLD AND MOIST.
MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL
OTHERWISE, YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE TALKING TO ME RIGHT NOW.
BAM
AAHHHH
I HATE YOU!
STOP TRYING TO BEFRIEND ME!
IWAKO! THAT RIFLE IS LOADED! STOP!
CLANK

MITSURU...
SST
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ANNUL OUR MARRIAGE?
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO MARRY ME, RIGHT?
カチャ!

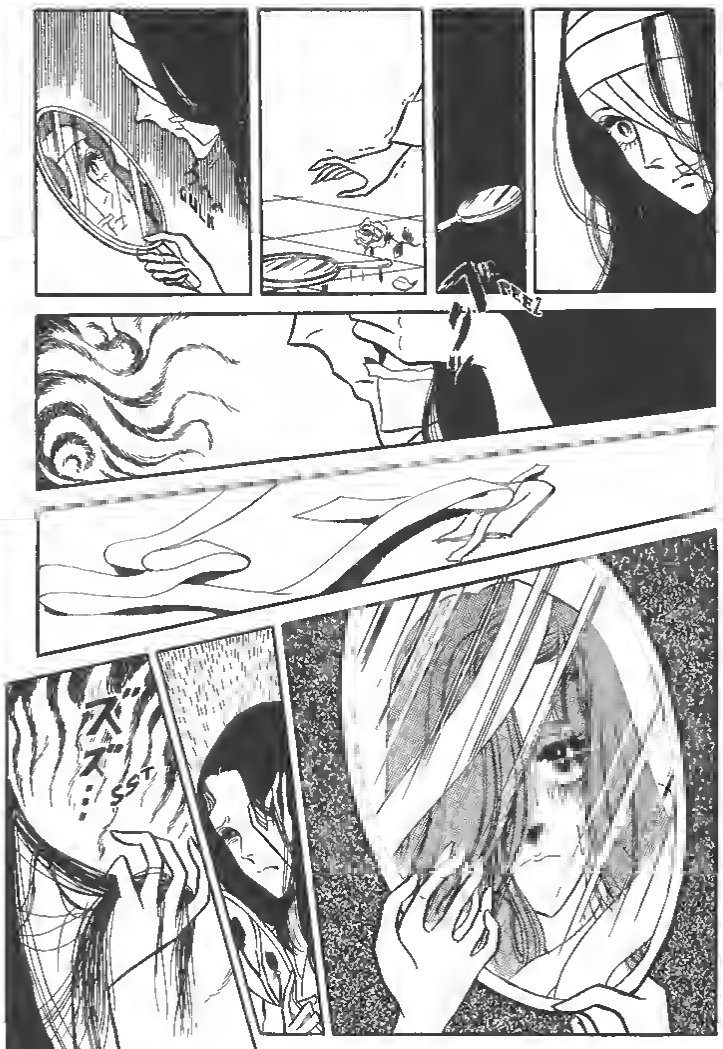
IWAKO, IT'S ONLY A SLIGHT SCAR ON YOUR FACE
I KNOW YOU HATE ME NOW!
YOU HATE MY UGLY FACE!
AND THESE JAPANESE SURGEONS...
JAPAN IS THE MOST ADVANCED IN PLASTIC SURGERY.
ABANDONED ALL HOPE OF MY RECOVERY
MY WHOLE LIFE HAS BEEN...
JUST TELL ME THAT YOU DON'T LOVE ME ANYMORE!
IWAKO, YOU CAN'T LET THIS GET YOU DOWN AND HARDEN YOUR HEART
YOU'RE STILL THE IWAKO THAT I GREW UP WITH. YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED.

YOU TWO HAVE THE NERVE TO ACT LIKE LOVERS IN FRONT OF ME!
GET OUT!
IWAKO!
WHAT? NO! I...
HAH... HAH...
BOTH OF YOU! GET OUT!
GET OUT!
WHAM!

SLAM
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
NO NO! NOT AT ALL! COME IN
HI IWAKO...
I'M SORRY DID I COME AT A BAD TIME?
ACK

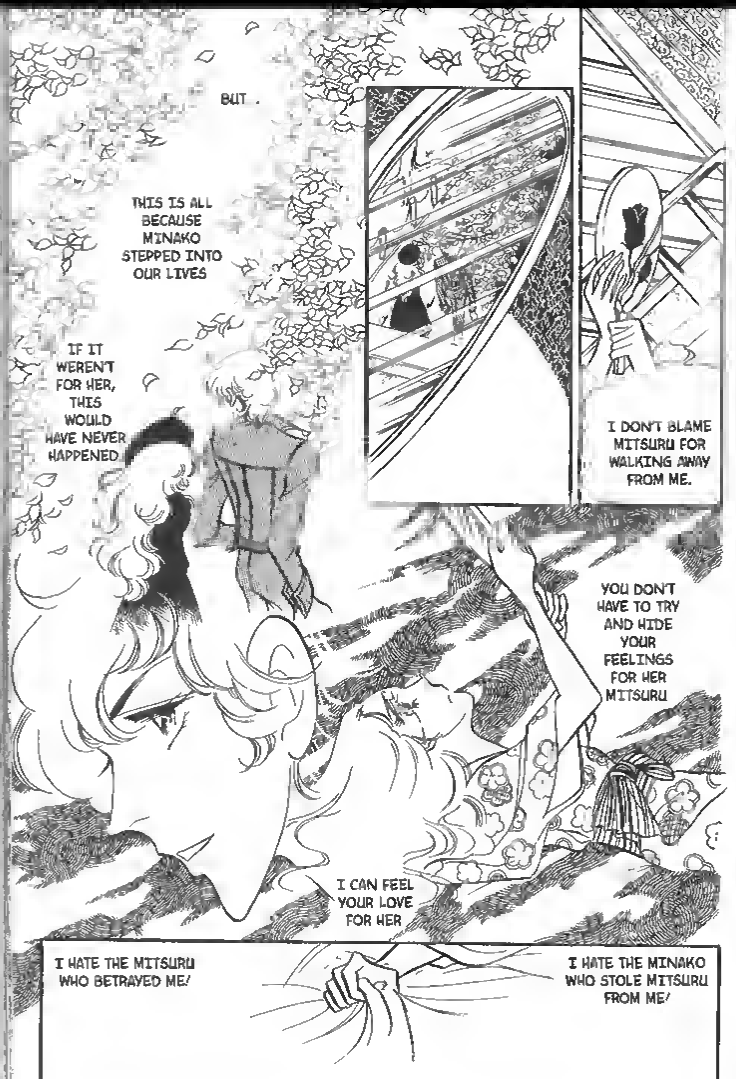
AUGH...
カラッ
CLANK
CLANK
I HATE EVERYTHING BEAUTIFUL!
I HATE EVERY-THING!
I HATE EVERY-THING!




ズズ…
SST

AAAHHHHH!!
I CAN'T EVEN LOOK AT MY OWN FACE..
I . I LOOK LIKE A MONSTER




BUT .
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE MINAKO STEPPED INTO OUR LIVES
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HER, THIS WOULD HAVE NEVER HAPPENED
I DON'T BLAME MITSURU FOR WALKING AWAY FROM ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY AND HIDE YOUR FEELINGS FOR HER MITSURU
I CAN FEEL YOUR LOVE FOR HER
I HATE THE MITSURU WHO BETRAYED ME!
I HATE THE MINAKO WHO STOLE MITSURU FROM ME!

I AM DEEPLY ENAMORED OF LOVE.
WHO ARE YOU?
A WHITE BUTTER-FLY!?
MY HEART IS FROZEN IN SORROW AND BURNS IN HATRED
I AM LIKE YOU, UGLY AND ALONE.
MY HEART THAT BREATHES FIRE ON SORROW.
MY HEART HAS FROZEN IN SORROW AND SOLITUDE.
AWHOO
NOBODY... NOBODY UNDERSTANDS MY PAIN.
WHO'S THERE!?
I UNDER-STAND
I DO..
HOW CAN I GET HIM BACK?
MINAKO IS SO BEAUTIFUL..
AND I'M

KILL HIM!
I WOULD
I LOVE THOSE WORDS!
AHAHAHA
YOUR HEART IS MY HEART!
GO!
AND HURRY!
I CAN ONLY IMAGINE WHAT SHE MUST BE GOING THROUGH
IT'S OKAY
SHE'S VERY STRONG. I DON'T KNOW HOW I WOULD DEAL WITH IT
I'M SORRY ABOUT IWAKO
SHE'S LOST HER MIND

I WOULD
I WOULD MAKE MINAKO END UP WITH A FACE LIKE MINE
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
IF YOU COULD NEVER BRING BACK YOUR ORIGINAL BEAUTY?
WHAT IF
YOU COULD NEVER WIN BACK YOUR LOVER'S LOVE?
NO! IF I COULD I WOULD DO THAT TO ALL THE WOMEN IN THE WORLD!
CLANK
I WOULD

AHAHAHA
I'M RIGHT HERE, DEIMOS!
FLAP FLAP
AREN'T YOU HAPPY TO SEE ME?

MINAKO, I'M THINKING OF CUTTING OFF MY ENGAGEMENT TO IWAKO
WHAT!?
IT'S AN UNNATURAL MARRIAGE ARRANGED BY OUR PARENTS.
WHAT ABOUT IWAKO'S FEELINGS?
I KNOW.
BUT, I DON'T WANT TO HAVE A LOVELESS MARRIAGE.
I THINK IWAKO BEGAN TO SENSE THAT I'M NOT IN LOVE WITH HER.
WHY IS IT THAT THIS WOMAN'S FOOTSTEPS ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THE SOUND OF FLUTTERING BUTTERFLY WINGS

THEN KISS ME DEIMOS!
IF YOUR HEART HASN'T CHANGED
IF YOU LOVE ME AND ONLY ME
PLEASE DON'T MISUNDER-STAND ME
I'M NOT CANCELING THE ENGAGEMENT BECAUSE OF THE SCARS ON HER FACE.
MINAKO I
I KNEW I WANTED TO...
SINCE THE MOMENT I MET YOU.
NO!
I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.
OF COURSE NOT!
DON'T TELL ME YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME HAVE CHANGED.
LOOK AT ME DEIMOS!
I HAVEN'T
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR PROMISE, HAVE YOU?
WHY DO YOU THINK I ENDED UP WITH THIS FACE?
.....
THEN GIVE ME MINAKO'S LIFE.
AND SAVE ME FROM HADES'S DARK AND THORNY PRISON.

HEHE. NOW YOU REALIZE?
HAH!
YANK
YOU THINK I'M STUPID ENOUGH TO KILL HIM RIGHT AWAY?
DON'T WORRY I WON'T KILL HIM.
I STILL HAVE A LOT TO TAKE CARE OF BEFORE I KILL ANYONE/
HE HE HE
I STILL HAVEN'T SCARRED UP THAT PERFECT FACE OF YOURS AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE MINE.
I SHALL HAVE YOU EXPERIENCE THE SAME SORROW AND PAIN THAT YOU'VE MADE ME FEEL.

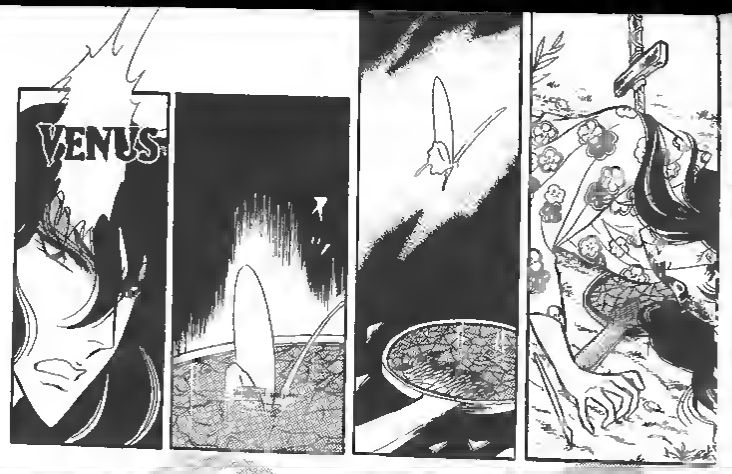
M... MONSTER/
I KNEW IT/
I KNEW IT/
YANK
STAB

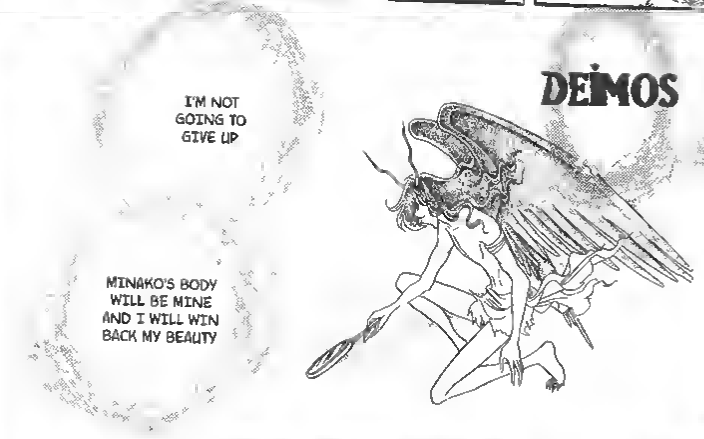
I LOVE YOU
THAT'S WHY...
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T LET MINAKO DIE WITH SUCH AN ATROCIOUS LOOKING FACE
DEIMOS!
THAT'S JUST YOUR EXCUSE, DEIMOS!
YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH MINAKO!
AHHH!
WATCH ME CUT OUT A HOLE IN YOUR FACE WITH THIS SCALPEL AND STUFF IT WITH SAP.
SLASH
YOU KNOW WHAT TREE THIS IS?
JAPANESE LACQUER...
CLOSE YOUR EYES DEAR
YOUR FACE WILL SWELL UP LIKE A BALLOON!
YOU SHALL SEE MY PAIN THROUGH THIS MIRROR!

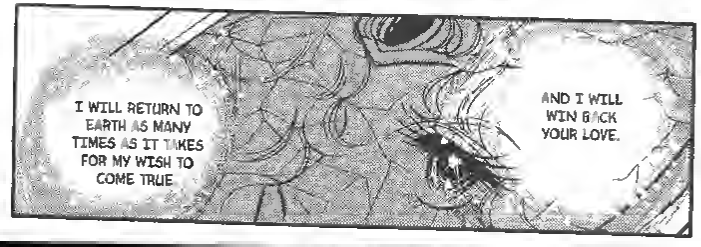
ZZISH
ZZISH
DROP

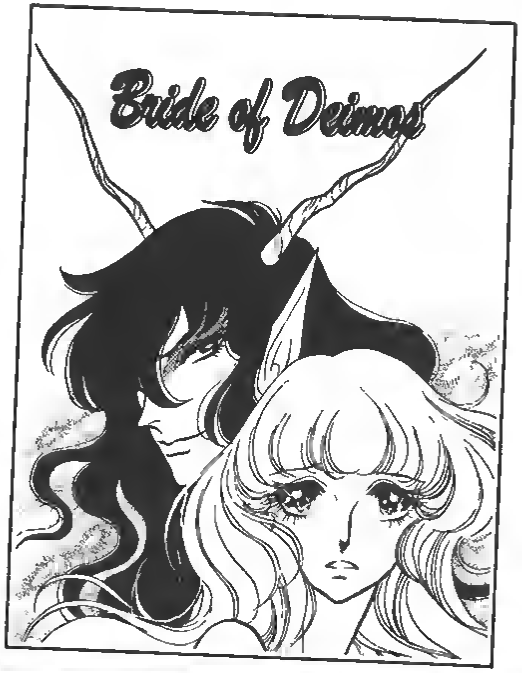
IF I CAN'T WIN HIS LOVE BACK...
NO!
HELP ME!
ZSSS
I WOULD...
KILL HIM!
SLASH

IF...
I AM UNABLE TO WIN BACK MY BEAUTY...
AND ALL THE BEAUTY IN THIS UNIVERSE
MY BODY WILL DECAY AND ROT INTO THE GROUND.
SSST//
SHALL DISAP-PEAR...
VENUS...

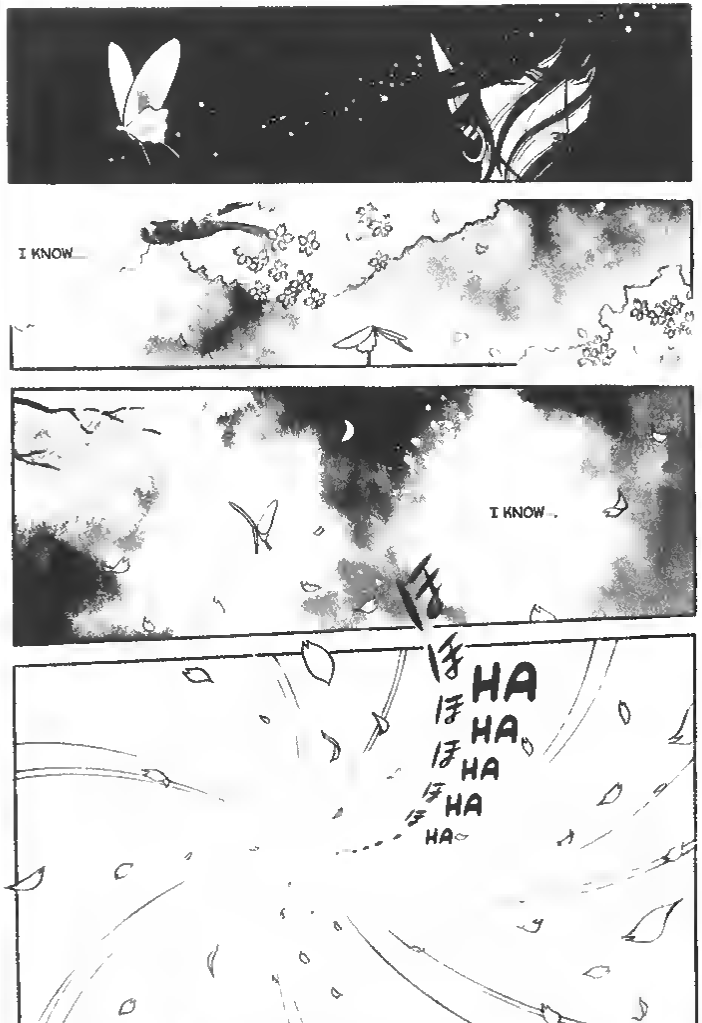

VENUS


I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP
MINAKO'S BODY WILL BE MINE AND I WILL WIN BACK MY BEAUTY
DEIMOS

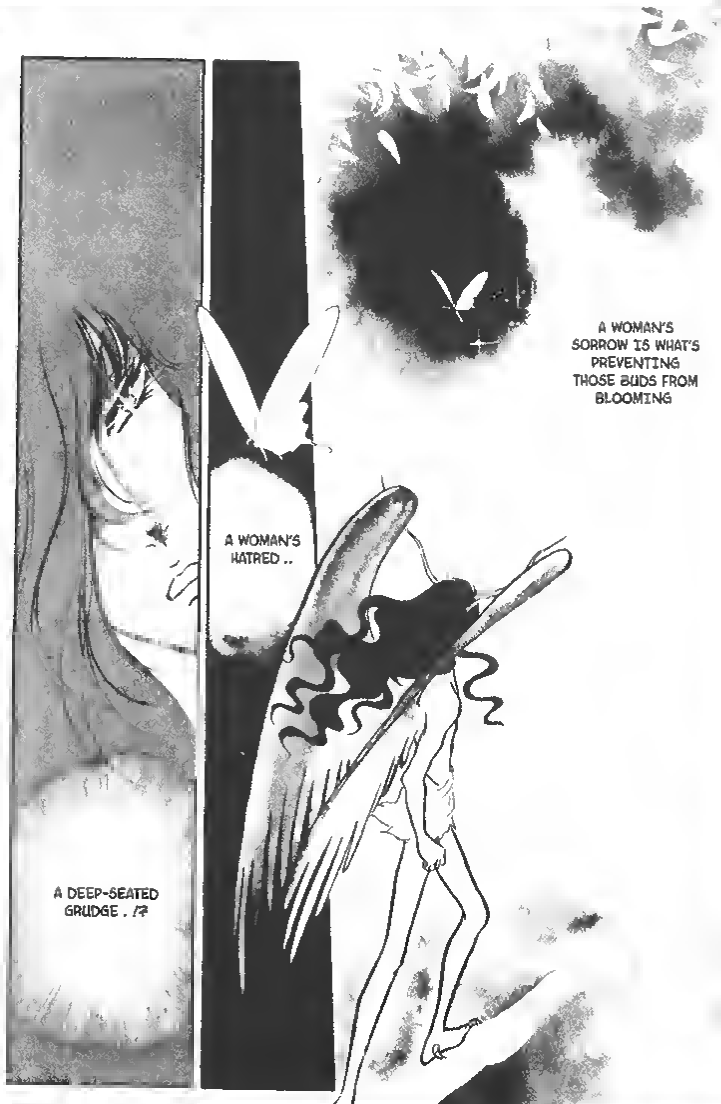

I WILL RETURN TO EARTH AS MANY TIMES AS IT TAKES FOR MY WISH TO COME TRUE.
AND I WILL WIN BACK YOUR LOVE.

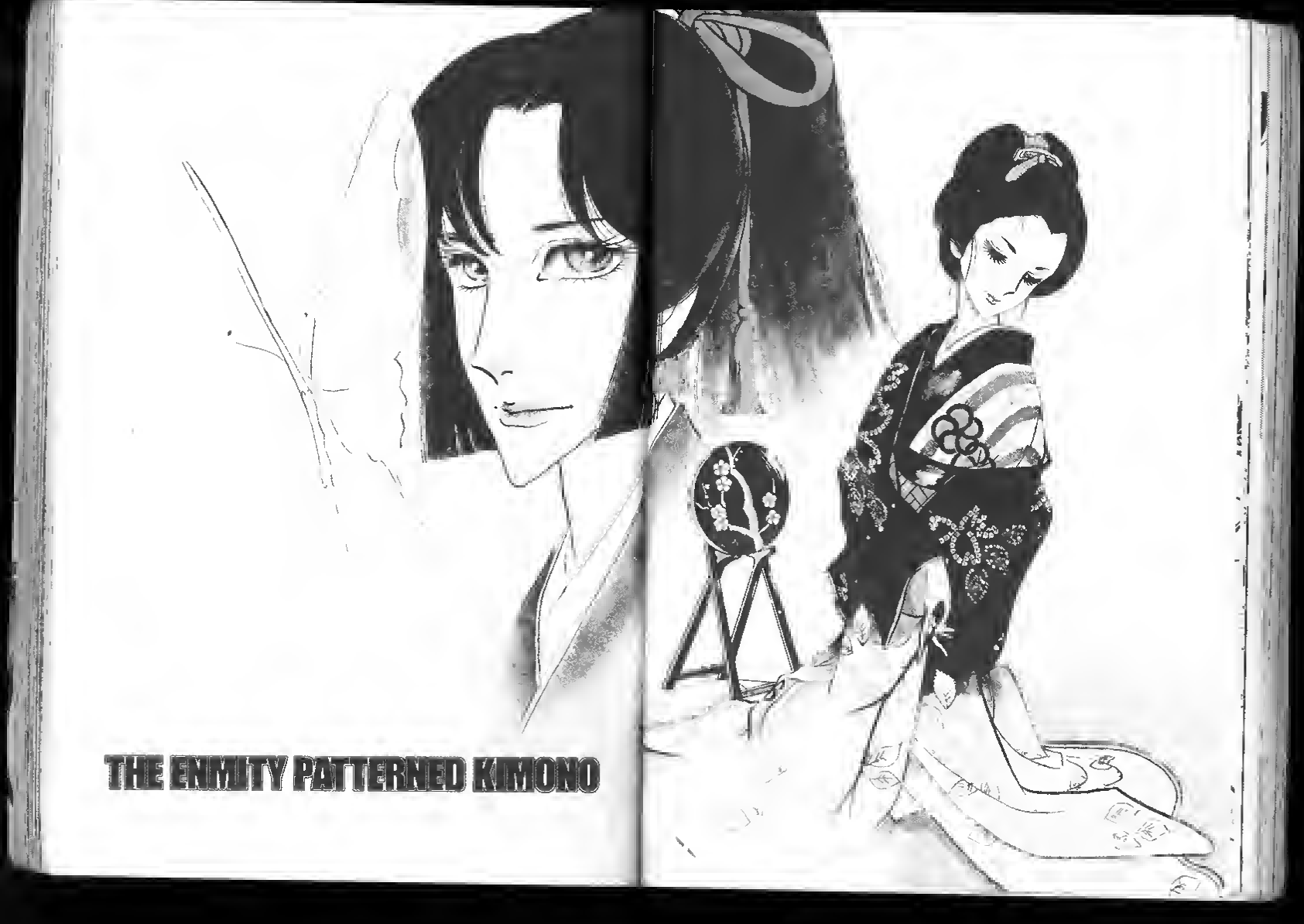

Bride of Deimos

YOU'RE WRONG DEIMOS.
VENUS
THE BUDS HAVE TURNED BLACK AND WITHERED
PSH... THEY MUST HAVE BEEN KILLED BY EXHAUST FROM AUTOMOBILES.
SUCH CLAMOROUS HUMANS/
HMPH/ LOOK AT THEM INTOXICATED WITH CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
WHY ARE THERE NO FLOWERS BLOOMING ON IT?
THIS IS ALSO A CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE.


I KNOW...
I KNOW..
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA




A WOMAN'S SORROW IS WHAT'S PREVENTING THOSE BUDS FROM BLOOMING
A WOMAN'S HATRED..
A DEEP-SEATED GRUDGE..!?



# THE ENMITY PATTERNED KIMONO

WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS BE SO FORMAL WITH ME?
OTSUYA
WHAT IS IT HIKONOSHIN?
I HAVE BEEN CALLED BACK TO EDO.
OTSUYA
IS THERE SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU?

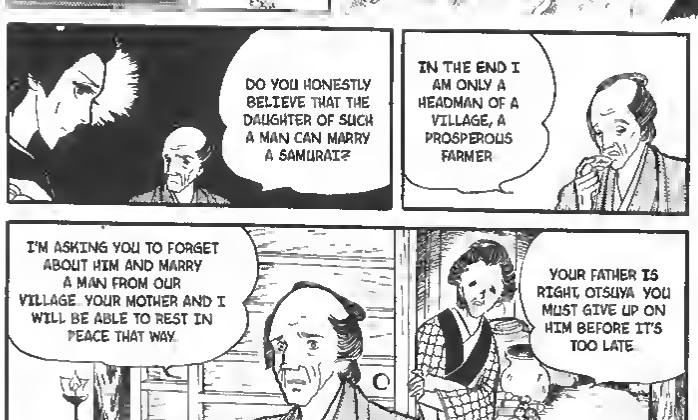
HIKONOSHIN!
IF YOU ASK ME, YOU LOOK AS CUTE AS A BUTTERFLY, OTSUYA-SAN
はは
はは
はは
YOU LOOK GORGEOUS!
THAT KIMONO SUITS YOU WELL! YOU LOOK LIKE THE SPIRIT OF A FLOWER
HAHA
はあ
はあ
HAHA

ONCE I HAVE REACHED MANHOOD I WILL RETURN FOR YOU
DON'T SAY THAT, OTSUYA!
RETURN FOR ME...?
HIKONOSHIN..
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME. I WANT US TO GROW OLD TOGETHER
FOR YOU TO RETURN .
I WILL BE WAITING I WILL BE WAITING.
FOR YOU TO RETURN

ザ
ザ
ザー
WHEEOOO
YOU MEAN
I HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AS SHOGUN TAISHIN'S DIRECT RETAINER.
BUT IT BREAKS MY HEART TO HAVE TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOU
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO RISE TO THE HIGH POSITION THAT I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF.
GOOD-BYE...
YOU WILL FORGET ALL ABOUT ME .
YOU WON'T THINK TWICE ABOUT A COUNTRY GIRL LIKE ME..
IF YOU RETURN TO EDO YOU WILL FORGET. .

COUNTLESS NUMBERS OF SPRINGS...
HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN

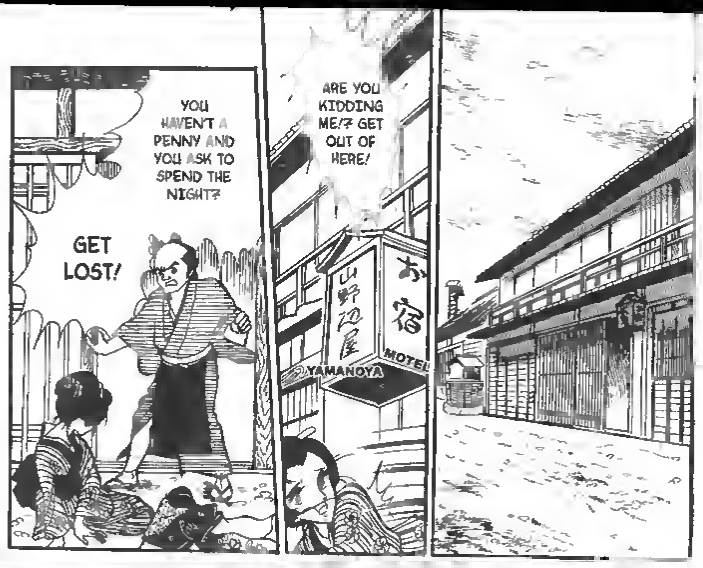
OTSUYA...
I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE PERMISSION TO USE A SURNAME AND WEAR A SWORD BUT...
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE IN BLOOM AGAIN...
BUT MY LOVER HAS YET TO RETURN.
THINK OF THIS KIMONO AS ME UNTIL I RETURN...


DO YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT THE DAUGHTER OF SUCH A MAN CAN MARRY A SAMURAI?
IN THE END I AM ONLY A HEADMAN OF A VILLAGE, A PROSPEROUS FARMER
I'M ASKING YOU TO FORGET ABOUT HIM AND MARRY A MAN FROM OUR VILLAGE. YOUR MOTHER AND I WILL BE ABLE TO REST IN PEACE THAT WAY.
YOUR FATHER IS RIGHT, OTSUYA. YOU MUST GIVE UP ON HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

I CAN'T FORGET ABOUT HIKONOSHIN.
I WILL WAIT FOR HIM TO RETURN/ I WILL NOT MARRY ANY OTHER MAN BUT HIM/
NO/
WE ARE ALL LIKE FLOWERS
WE MUST BLOOM. THOSE THAT WITHER AS A BUD ARE USELESS
AAAH HIKONOSHIN/
OTSUYA/
I KNOW THAT YOU WILL RETURN FOR ME/
HIKONOSHIN/
SHUDE
NIHON-BASHI, EDO
THIS SHALL BE BURNED FOR YOUR OWN SAKE/
YANK
THIS KIMONO IS WHAT'S NOT LETTING YOU FORGET ABOUT THE LAD IN EDO
NO/ FATHER/ NO/
I WOULD RATHER LEAVE THIS HOUSE/
IF IT MEANS THIS KIMONO WILL BE TAKEN FROM ME..
I'M GOING TO EDO
FATHER, MOTHER..
I WILL GO TO EDO AND FIND HIKONOSHIN/
WATCH YOUR MOUTH/

I CAN'T TELL EAST FROM WEST.
I'VE FINALLY ARRIVED IN EDO, BUT...
YAMANOY
HOW WILL I BE ABLE TO FIND HIKONOSHIN?
SQUEEZE
BONK
HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
AOW
RATTLE
EX... EXCUSE ME...
DOBUTON
DRIED POTATOES
AKARI




YOU HAVEN'T A PENNY AND YOU ASK TO SPEND THE NIGHT?
GET LOST!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME!? GET OUT OF HERE!
YAMANOYA
MOTEL

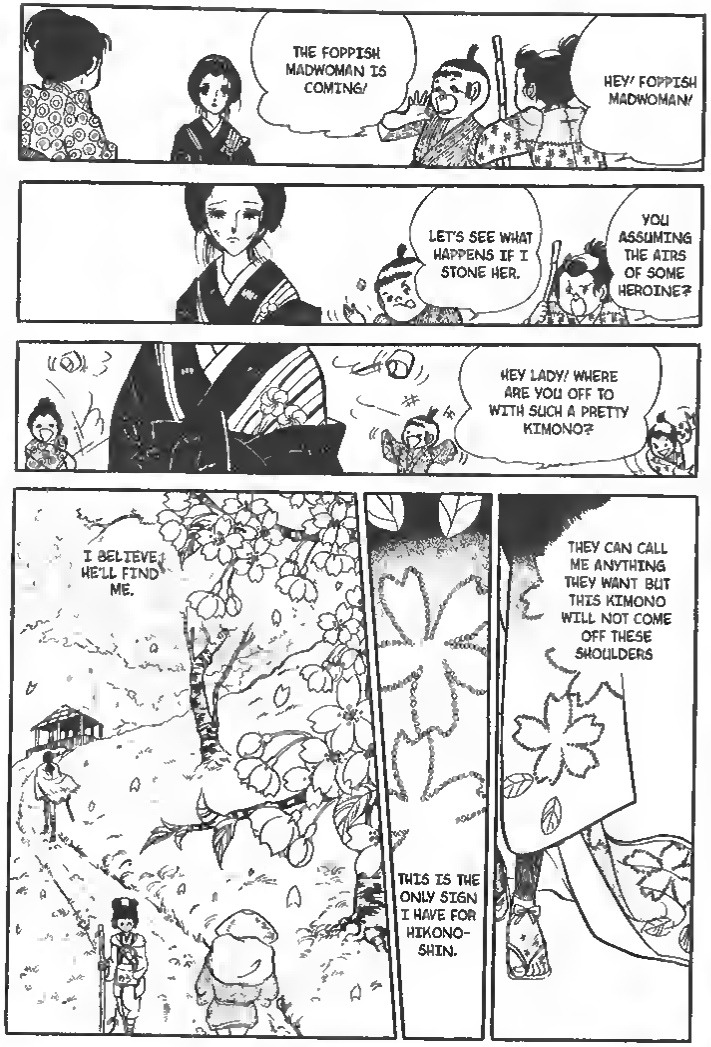
I'LL LET YOU SPEND THE NIGHT FOR THIS KIMONO.
IT'S QUITE A KIMONO YOU HAVE HERE

PAWN SHOP
WHERE ARE YOU HIKONOSHIN?
HIKONOSHIN...
SHE'S COMPLETELY LOST IT...
I BELIEVE HIKONOSHIN WILL SPOT

HIKONOSHIN
THIS IS THE ONLY THING I HAVE TO FIND HIM.
THIS IS THE MEMENTO OF A VERY IMPORTANT PERSON.
GIVE IT BACK!
OH YEAH! I SHOULD WALK THE STREETS WITH THIS KIMONO ON!
I BELIEVE HIKONOSHIN WILL SPOT ME.
PSH! I THOUGHT SHE WAS A BEGGAR BUT I GUESS SHE'S JUST CRAZY IN THE HEAD.
MOTEL YAMANOYA

WHAT ARE THEY?
HEY! YOU MUSTN'T WALK IN FRONT OF THEM YOU WILL BE CURSED FOR LIFE!
HIKONOSHIN OBATA IS LEADING THE WAY TO A BUDDHIST TEMPLE
5,000 OF THE SHOGUN'S RETAINERS
HEY! HEY!
HIKONOSHIN...!
HIKONOSHIN OBATA!




THE FOPPISH MADWOMAN IS COMING!
HEY! FOPPISH MADWOMAN!
LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF I STONE HER.
YOU ASSUMING THE AIRS OF SOME HEROINE?
HEY LADY! WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO WITH SUCH A PRETTY KIMONO?
I BELIEVE HE'LL FIND ME.
THIS IS THE ONLY SIGN I HAVE FOR HIKONO-SHIN.
THEY CAN CALL ME ANYTHING THEY WANT BUT THIS KIMONO WILL NOT COME OFF THESE SHOULDERS

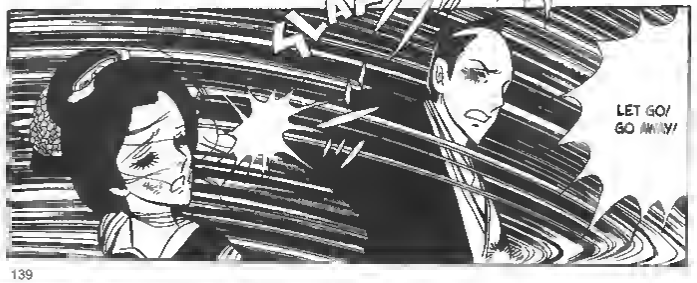
HIKONO-SHIN!
HEY! WHAT DID I JUST TELL YOU?
HIKONO-SHIN!
HIKONOSHIN! IT'S ME, OTSUYA!
WHO IS SHE? GET HER OUT OF HERE!

COULD THAT BE...?
HE WAS ADOPTED FROM SOME POOR FAMILY OUT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.
HE'S TAKEN THE DAIMYO'S DAUGHTER AS HIS BRIDE. HE HAS GOT EVERYTHING ANY MAN WOULD WANT!
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE IN BLOOM. I WILL WALK THE REST OF THE WAY THERE AND ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF NATURE.
HOW WONDERFUL TO BE ABLE TO HOLD A BUDDHIST SERVICE FOR OUR ANCESTORS ON SUCH A GORGEOUS DAY
OH YES THEY ARE FABU-LOUS!

WAIT/ PLEASE/
LET US GO
I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS WOMAN BEFORE

HIKONO-SHIN/
YOU GAVE ME THIS KIMONO TO REMEMBER YOU BY
YOU PROMISED YOU WOULD MAKE ME YOUR WIFE/

HIKONOSHIN/
SHE'S A MAD-WOMAN/
I DON'T KNOW HER/


SLAP/
LET GO/ GO AWAY/

THAT'S MY..
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THIS KIMONO?
...?

WHO IS SHE?

HIKONOSHIN, I WANTED TO SEE YOU/

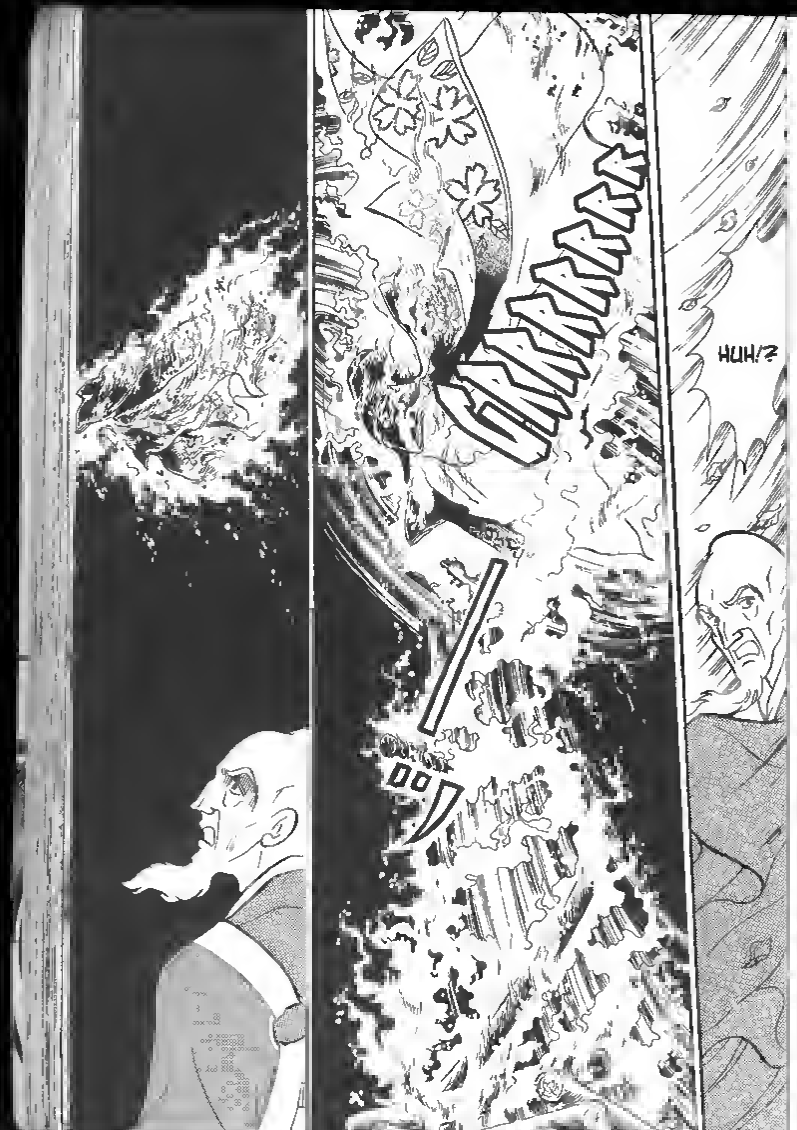
I SAID, I DON'T KNOW YOU/
IT'S ME WHEN YOU WERE A BOY-SERVANT OF THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN .

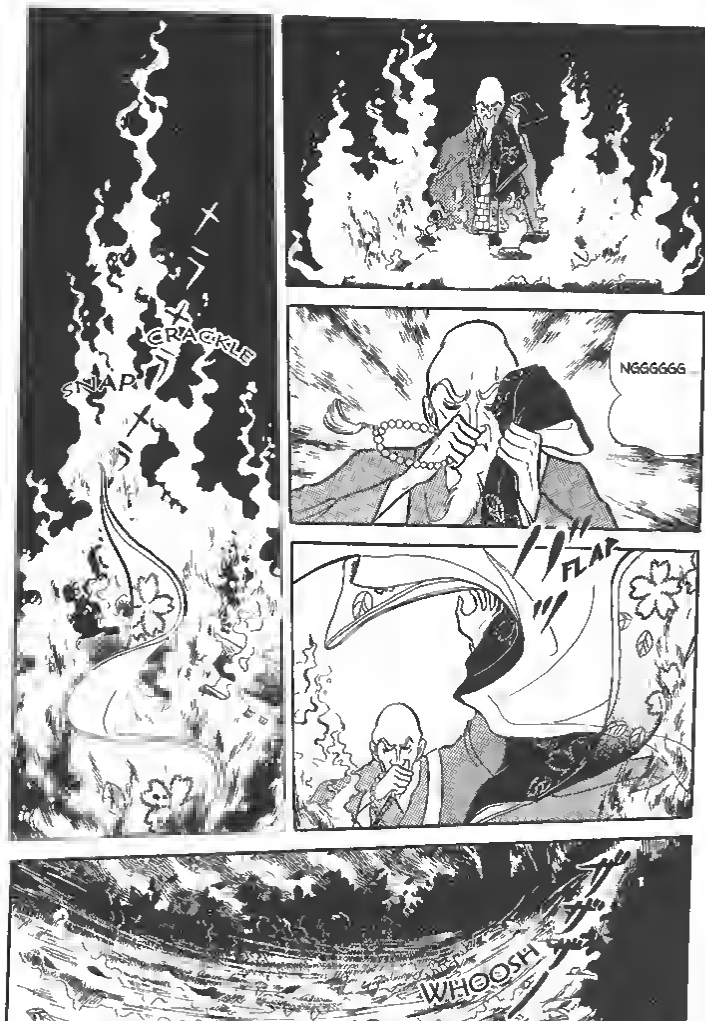
I... BELIEVED IN... YOU...
HIKONOSHIN ... I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU...
ズズズ
WOOOO
HOW DARE YOU!?
MY HEART WAS WAITING FOR YOU... AND YOU CRUSHED THAT HEART.
I SHALL HATE YOU... AND DESPISE YOU... HIKONO... SHIN...
SHUT UP!
ZOO
ZISH

KILL HER!
HIKONOSHIN!
SLASH

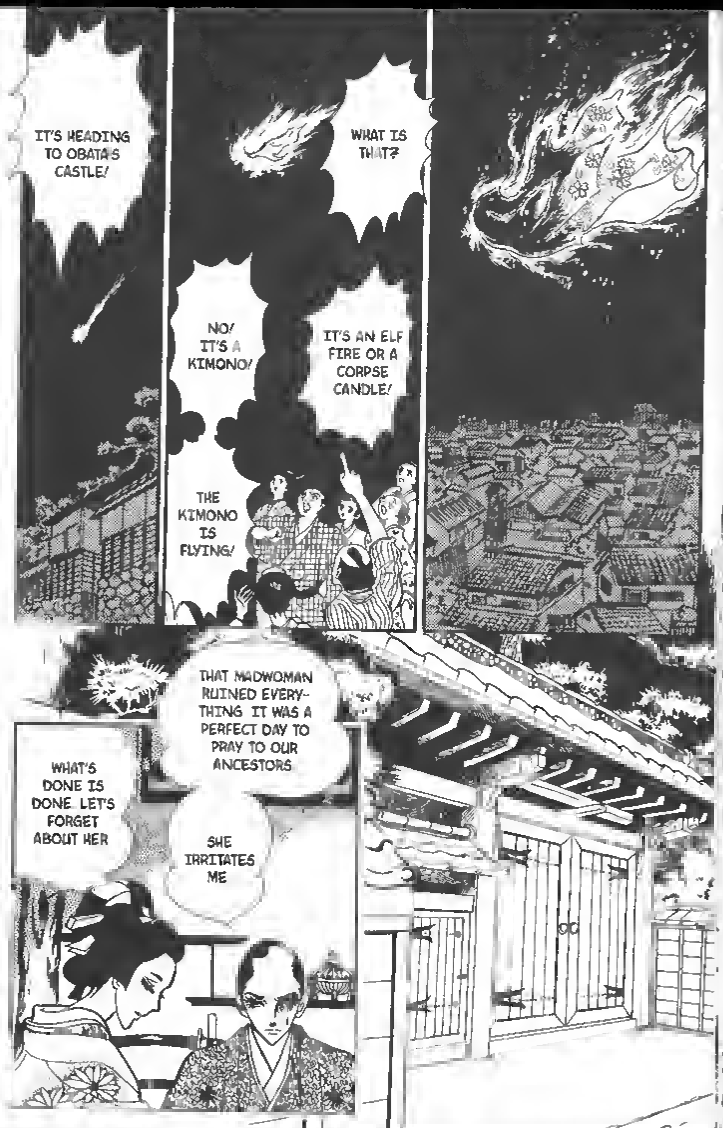
POOR THING...
NAMUAMIDA-BUTSU NAMUA-MIDABUTSU...
TAP
WE SHALL BURY HER UNDER THIS CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE.
EVEN IF SHE HAS NO KITH OR KIN, IF WE BURY HER HERE...
WHEN SPRING COMES NATURE WILL OFFER FLOWERS TO HER SPIRIT.
I SHALL TAKE THIS KIMONO TO MY TEMPLE AND HOLD A SERVICE CELEBRATING...
HER ATTAINMENT OF BUDDHA-HOOD.

THUD
I'LL HATE YOU...
FOREVER...
WE CANNOT GO TO THE TEMPLE. WE SHALL RETURN TO THE PREMISES.
MY SWORD HAS BEEN STAINED WITH BLOOD.
SLAM

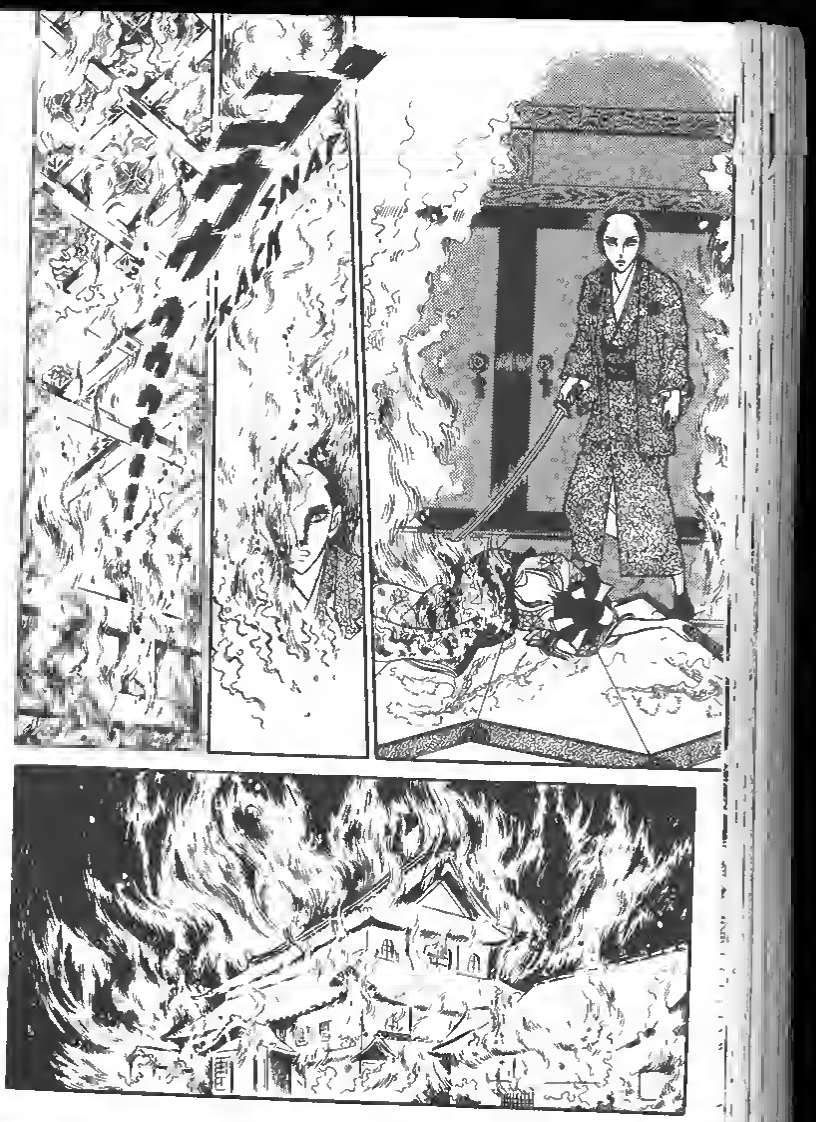

GRRRRRR
HUH!?
DO


CRACKLE
SNAP
NGGGGGG
FLAP
WHOOSH

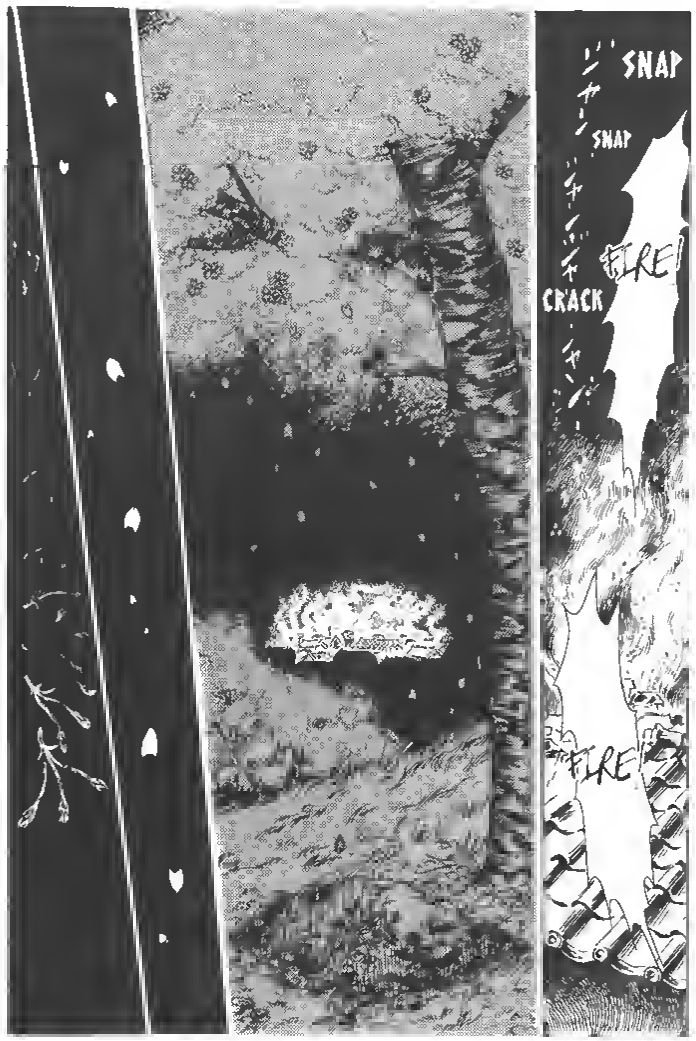
GRRRRR
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THIS WILL CHEER YOU UP!
THANK YOU.
SHINE
RU


IT'S HEADING TO OBATA'S CASTLE!
WHAT IS THAT?
NO! IT'S A KIMONO!
IT'S AN ELF FIRE OR A CORPSE CANDLE!
THE KIMONO IS FLYING!
THAT MADWOMAN RUINED EVERY-THING IT WAS A PERFECT DAY TO PRAY TO OUR ANCESTORS
WHAT'S DONE IS DONE LET'S FORGET ABOUT HER
SHE IRRITATES ME

DIE!
YOUR SOUL HAS BEEN MISLED!
SLASH
O... OTSUYA!
SLAM
HI... HIKONOSHIN ...!?
NO!
YOOSH
ACK!
FLAY
I WILL HAUNT YOU...
FOREVER...
NO!
HE HE HE HE


ゴゥ
CRACK
SNAP
ゴゥゥゥー!

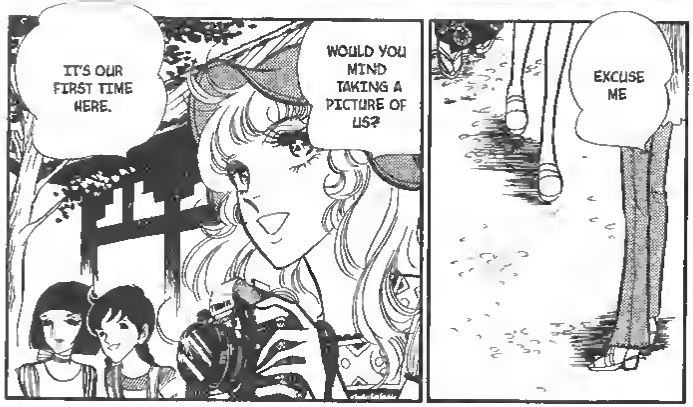



SNAP
シャーン
SNAP
シャーンシャ
CRACK
FIRE
シャーン
FIRE

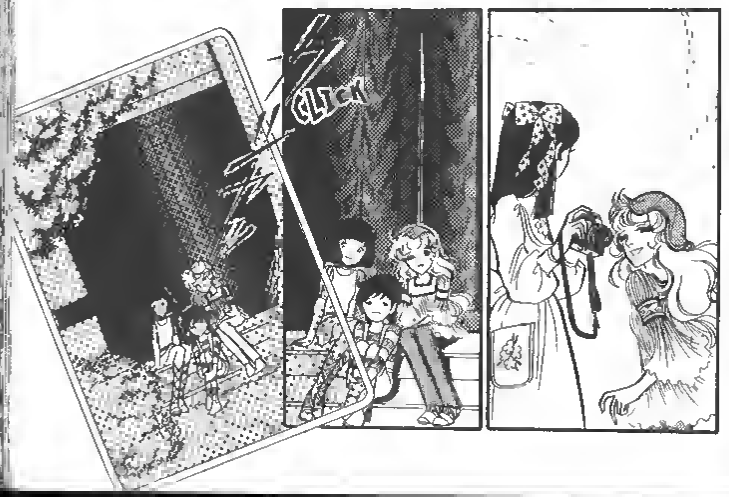
HAHAHA!
BUTTERFLY! BUTTERFLY! FLUTTER BY AND STOP ON THE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE!
I LOVE THE SPRING!
MINAKO, IF YOU WERE A FLOWER, YOU'D STILL BE ONLY A BUD.
YOU MUSTN'T TURN BLACK AND WITHER AWAY AS A BUD...
WITHOUT IT BLOOMING, IT'S NOT A CHERRY BLOSSOM.
I MUST GET MY HANDS ON HER AND TAKE HER TO HADES...
AM I CAPABLE OF THAT?
SST
PLOP
ALL THE BUDS TURN BLACK AND WITHER...
300 YEARS HAVE GONE BY SINCE THE BUDS ON THIS CHERRY TREE LAST BLOOMED.
LOOK MINAKO! A BUTTERFLY!

LIFE'S LAST CHAPTER
DEIMOS, IF YOU ARE EVER TO BETRAY ME
I WILL ALSO USE THE FLAME OF LOVE AND...
YOU...
AND THAT GIRL SHALL BURN!

AKIKO. THIS IS THE MAITREYA BODHISATTVA


IT'S OUR FIRST TIME HERE.
WOULD YOU MIND TAKING A PICTURE OF US?
EXCUSE ME

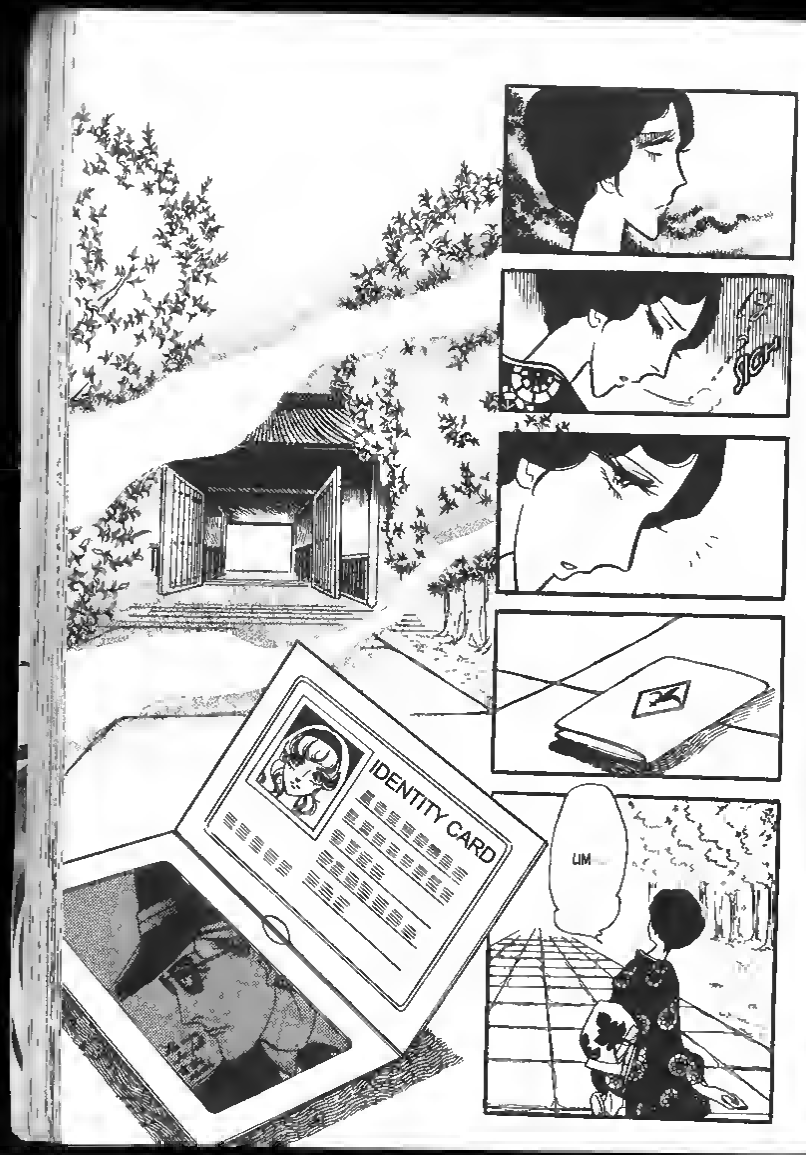
THANK YOU.
AKIKO, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THE PICTURE FOR THEM?


CLICK

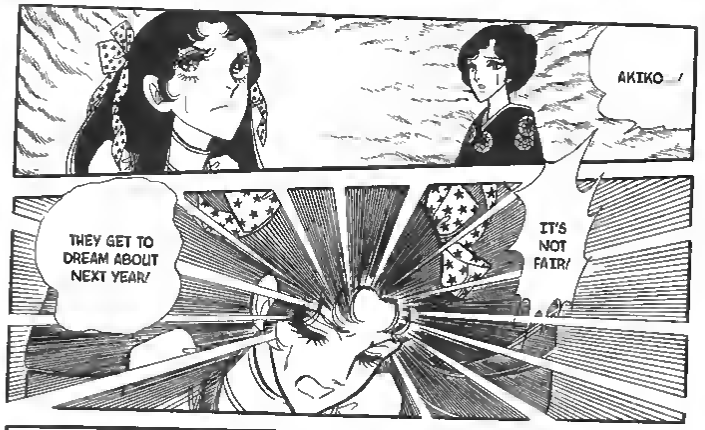
HMPH!
LOOK AKIKO, WHAT A MERCIFUL BODHISATTVA
BODHISATTVAS DESIRE SUPREMACY AND ETERNITY
THEY WERE ALL HUMANS WHO PURSUED THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO BECOME SAVIORS
WELL NO MATTER HOW MERCIFUL A BODHISATTVA MAY BE, NONE OF THEM WILL BE ABLE TO CURE MY SICKNESS!
THEY SAY PRAY TO GOD WHEN YOU ARE TROUBLED OR UNCERTAIN.
AKIKO...

FLICK
NEXT YEAR...!
THANKS!
IT'S WONDERFUL! WE'D LOVE TO COME BACK NEXT SPRING.
HOW DO YOU LIKE KYOTO?
AKIKO!
YOU'VE RUINED THEIR FILM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HUH?
WHO CARES? YOU CAN TAKE ANOTHER PICTURE NEXT YEAR, RIGHT?

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR HER RUINING YOUR FILM
LET ME MAKE THIS UP TO YOU WHERE ARE YOU GIRLS STAYING?
OH DEAR!
SHE'S SUFFERING FROM LEUKEMIA AND IS STRUGGLING WITH THE FACT THAT SHE ONLY HAS A FEW MONTHS LEFT
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.


IDENTITY CARD
UM

ERK!
WE CAN ALWAYS TAKE MORE PICTURES NEXT YE...
OH NO PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE FILM
FOR HER, TOO.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELVES AND ENJOY YOUR YOUTH WHILE YOU CAN
I'M SORRY.
PLEASE SEND YOUR DAUGHTER OUR WARM REGARDS
WE'RE PLANNING ON BOATING DOWN THE HOZU RIVER AND THEN RETURNING BACK TO TOKYO TOMORROW.


AKIKO...!
IT'S NOT FAIR!
THEY GET TO DREAM ABOUT NEXT YEAR!

WHY MUST I LIVE EACH DAY... IN FEAR OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH...?03
EVERYONE LIVES WITH DREAMS ABOUT HOW THINGS WILL BE ONE YEAR LATER, 5 YEARS LATER, 10 YEARS LATER...

NO!
THEY WERE SAYING THEY'RE GOING TO BOAT DOWN THE HOZU RIVER TOMORROW. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE THIS TO THEM TONIGHT?
LET THEM SUFFER!
ONE OF THOSE GIRLS DROPPED THIS

YANK
YANK

PSH! NEXT YEAR... UGH!
YANK

I'M UPROOTING THESE FLOWERS SO THAT THEY CAN'T GROW NEXT YEAR.

THERE YOU ARE AKIKO.

HAHAHA!

カ
SNAP
HERE YOU GO EAT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE

BZZ
SNATCH!
I'LL LEAVE IT HERE WITH YOU, OKAY?
DON'T SPEAK SUCH MEAN WORDS DEAR...
LOOK MAMA
IHAHAHA
SUFFER! LET ME HEAR YOU CRY FOR HELP!
NO ONE IS GOING TO SAVE YOU!
JUST LIKE I AM
YOU CAN HEAR THE FLY, CAN'T YOU?
IT'S CRYING FOR HELP
BUZZZZ

WHO ARE YOU?
GLASS NOR WATER WILL HIDE MY TRUE IDENTITY.
I AM DEIMOS, THE DEVIL.

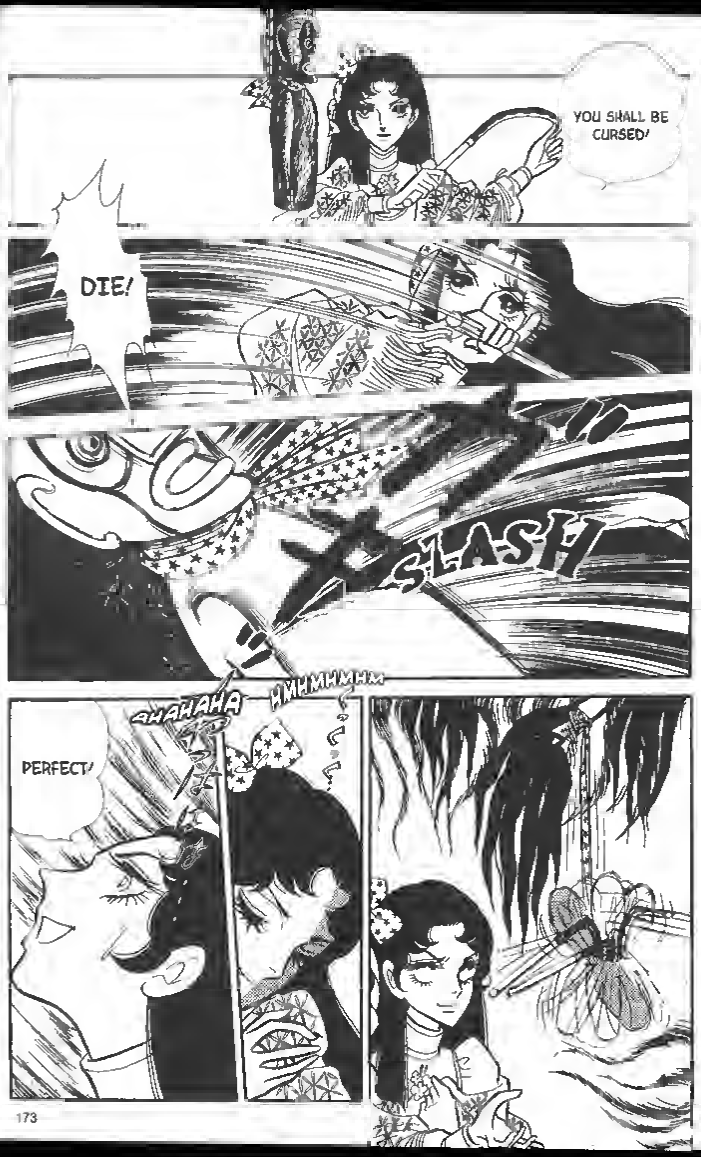
SSST
YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LISTEN TO YOUR CRIES?
MY LIFE IS BEING CONTROLLED TOO BY GOD OR BY THE DEVIL. I DON'T KNOW
I'M MOST HAPPY WHEN I HAVE CONTROL OF THESE LITTLE LIVES.

SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
ANY HUMAN WHO HAS BEEN CURSED BY THIS DOLL WILL LOSE THEIR LIFE.
YOU MUST CURSE THEM AT NIGHT.
YOU MUSTN'T BE SEEN WHEN YOU ARE CURSING THEM.

AND RUTHLESSNESS!
THE ONLY EMOTIONS LEFT IN ME ARE HATRED, JEALOUSY...
I USED UP ALL MY WONDERMENT AND SORROW WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO LIVE
YOU SEEM TO SHOW NO SURPRISE.
AN INCOMPARABLE EXCITEMENT?
I WANT TO FEEL AN INCOMPARABLE EXCITEMENT?
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU
HE HE
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
THIS IS A VOODOO DOLL
WOULDN'T IT BE MUCH MORE FUN TO CONTROL HUMAN LIVES RATHER THAN THE LITTLE LIVES OF INSECTS?

OH YEAH!
OH, I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS EXCITED IN YEARS!
LET'S SEE!
WHO SHALL I CURSE FIRST?
HEHE WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT FOR THE GIRL WHO WAS DREAMING ABOUT NEXT YEAR TO SUDDENLY DROP DEAD TOMORROW?
DIE!




YOU SHALL BE CURSED!
DIE!
SLASH
PERFECT!
AHAHAHA
HMMMMMM

MINAKO'S PHOTO !?
TWEET TWEET TWEET
THAT RIBBON. ./ DON'T TELL ME THAT GIRL CURSED MINAKO!?
WHHHEEEOOO
HA HA HA
WHHHEEEOOO
I SHALL WATCH THAT GIRL TAKE HER LAST BREATH!
WHEEEOOO
SLI
PHEEEOOO
ゴ

HERE WE GO!
WILL THE BOAT IN FRONT FLIP OVER OR
TRY TO KEEP YOUR WEIGHT CENTERED!
WE'RE REACHING THE MOST EXCITING PART OF THE RIDE!
AAAHHHH!
SLAM
HUH!
WAH!
SPLASH
AAAHHHH
きゃーっ
あはは
AHAHAHAHA

AAAHHH!
AUUHH!
SHE'S DROWNING!
OVER THERE! SOMEONE GET HER!
I'M GOING IN!

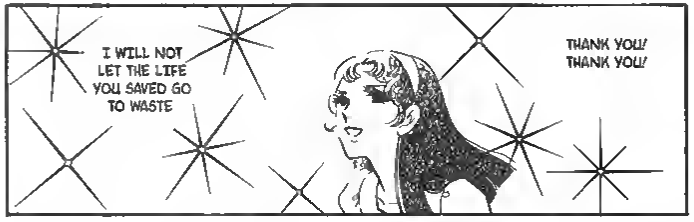
ACK!
HOOK
SPLASH
SHE WENT IN!

OUCH!
GRAB
SHUT UP AND HOLD ON!
LET GO OF ME! SAVE YOURSELF!
COME ON! YOU CAN DO IT! PULL YOURSELF UP!
EVEN IF I'M SAVED... I..
I'M GOING TO DIE ANYWAYS!
YOU THINK I CAN LET YOU DIE JUST BECAUSE YOU SAY THAT!?
SHUT UP!

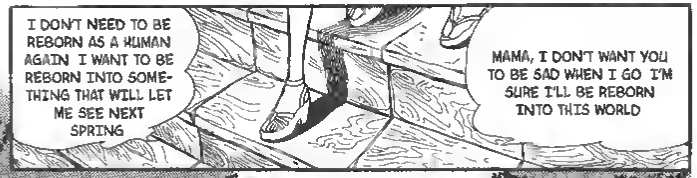
SHUT UP
NO... AUHH...
HANG ON!

I'M GLAD TO STILL BE ALIVE...
THANK YOU..
DRIP
I'M REALLY GLAD.
AKIKO, I REALLY THINK YOU ARE MISTAKEN

COME ON! YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!
AUH...!
IT'S NOTHING.
OH DEAR. YOU'RE CUT PRETTY BAD...
YEAH ...
WE'RE... SAVED... AREN'T WE?
HAW HAW HAW

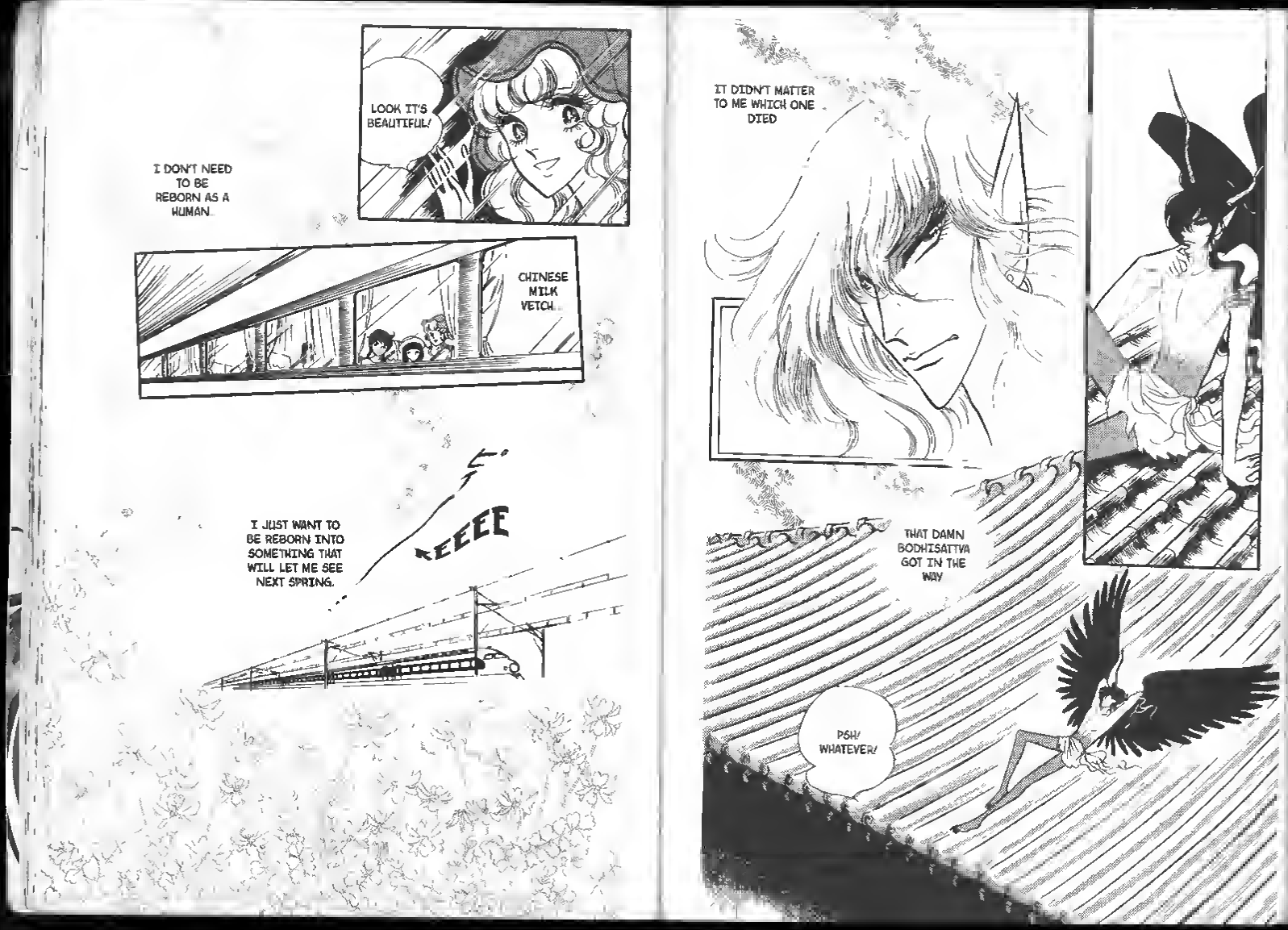

I WILL NOT LET THE LIFE YOU SAVED GO TO WASTE
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I WILL MAKE THE BEST OUT OF MY LIFE FOR YOU...
I ONLY HAVE A SHORT TIME LEFT, BUT...

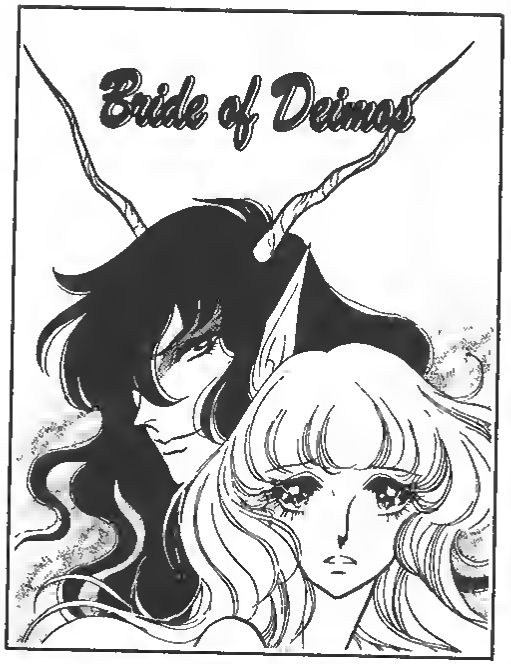

I DON'T NEED TO BE REBORN AS A HUMAN AGAIN I WANT TO BE REBORN INTO SOMETHING THAT WILL LET ME SEE NEXT SPRING
MAMA, I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE SAD WHEN I GO I'M SURE I'LL BE REBORN INTO THIS WORLD

AKIKO!

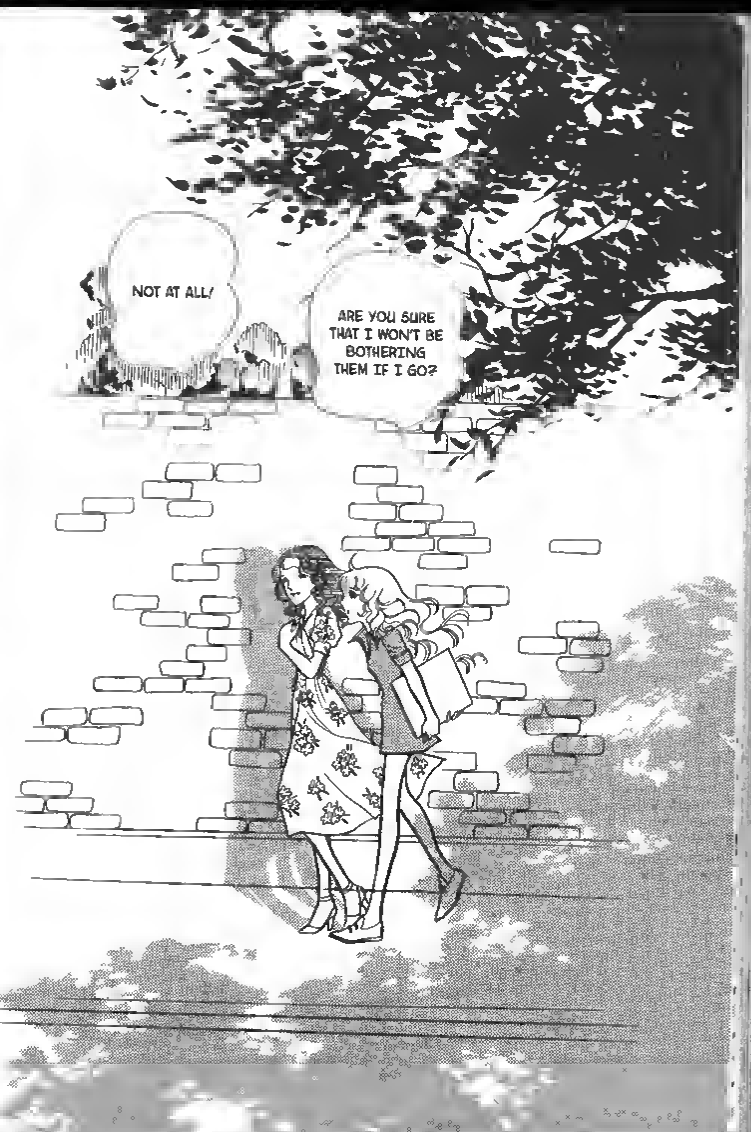
YOU SHOULD BE THANKING THE MAN WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE RATHER THAN BUDDHA
OH MY GOODNESS!
I KNEW IT WAS YOU!
SOME OBNOXIOUS TOURISTS MUST HAVE DONE THAT!


LOOK IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
I DON'T NEED TO BE REBORN AS A HUMAN.
CHINESE MILK VETCH.
I JUST WANT TO BE REBORN INTO SOMETHING THAT WILL LET ME SEE NEXT SPRING.
KEEEE
IT DIDN'T MATTER TO ME WHICH ONE DIED
THAT DAMN BODHISATTVA GOT IN THE WAY
PSH! WHATEVER!

# THE WOMAN WHO CUTS HER EAR



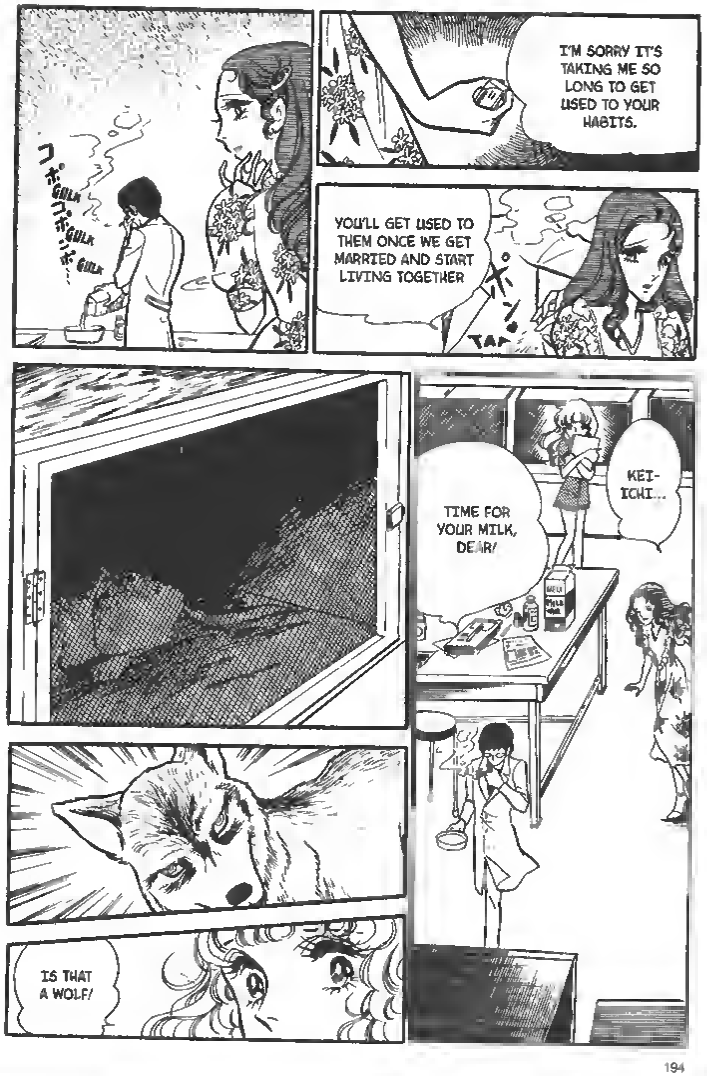
WAKITA BIO- RESEARCH LAB


ARE YOU SURE THAT I WON'T BE BOTHERING THEM IF I GO?
NOT AT ALL!

IT WOULD MEAN A LOT TO US.
AND I SUGGESTED SHE MEET YOU.
MINAKO'S CLASS IS LOOKING TO SERIALIZE A "BIOLOGY COLUMN" IN THEIR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER...
WELCOME TO MY LAB.
I KNOW YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WRITE INTERESTING ARTICLES.
FLICK
HMM...
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
UH...
PSSH
CIGARETTES DON'T TASTE GOOD IF THEY'RE LIT WITH A LIGHTER

HEY, MAYUMI.
YOU'RE WORKING HARD AS USUAL.
CREEEK
IN THE ECOLOGY OF ANIMALS
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
THIS IS MY FRIEND, MINAKO IFU.
THIS IS BIOLOGIST MR KEITCHI WAKITA.

SMASH!
CAN I FEED IT?
I HAVE RAISED IT SINCE IT WAS A PUP IT'S LIKE HAVING MY OWN CHILD
YES IT'S A EUROPEAN WOLF.
I DON'T THINK IT LIKES ME VERY MUCH
YIKES!
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL, SO I'M SURE THERE WOULD BE MANY MALE WOLVES AFTER HER
AHAHA A BEAUTIFUL WOLF...
CLICK
WOLVES ARE PROUD AND BOASTFUL, SO IT'S DIFFICULT TO PLEASE THEM
SHE'S REACHED THE AGE WHERE SHE WOULD BE LOOKING FOR A MATE
I WOULD LOVE TO RELEASE HER BACK INTO THE WOODS...


GULP GULP GULP
I'M SORRY IT'S TAKING ME SO LONG TO GET USED TO YOUR HABITS.
YOU'LL GET USED TO THEM ONCE WE GET MARRIED AND START LIVING TOGETHER
TAP
TIME FOR YOUR MILK, DEAR/
KEI-ICHI...
IS THAT A WOLF/

SPLASH
GRRRR
CLANG
GRRRR

HONEY, CAN I ANNOUNCE OUR ENGAGEMENT AT MY BIRTHDAY PARTY?
SSS!
NO REALLY, I THINK SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.
I'D LOVE TO!
OH, I'M SO HAPPY!
OF COURSE.
MINAKO, YOU'LL COME TO MY PARTY, WON'T YOU?
YOU'RE TREATING US?
WITH ALL THESE BEAUTIFUL LADIES IN MY HOUSE, I CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE WITHOUT FIRST TREATING YOU TO DINNER
I GUESS WE'RE VISITING AT A GOOD TIME, MAYUMI!
SLAM

I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO USE THE LIGHTER
I'M OUT.
SSST
HERE YOU GO
OH, THANKS...

I WONDER WHERE MAYUMI'S FIANCE IS.
HE'S A ZOOLOGIST WITH BRIGHT PROSPECTS AND A BRILLIANT CAREER. I WISH I COULD HAVE HIM AS MY HUSBAND! HAHA.
HEY MAYUMI, OVER THERE!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG
I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HIM.
IT'S OKAY I'LL GO.
SHALL I CALL HIM OVER?
HE'S PROBABLY HIDING HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE HARASSED BY EVERYONE!
WHEN DID HE GET HERE?

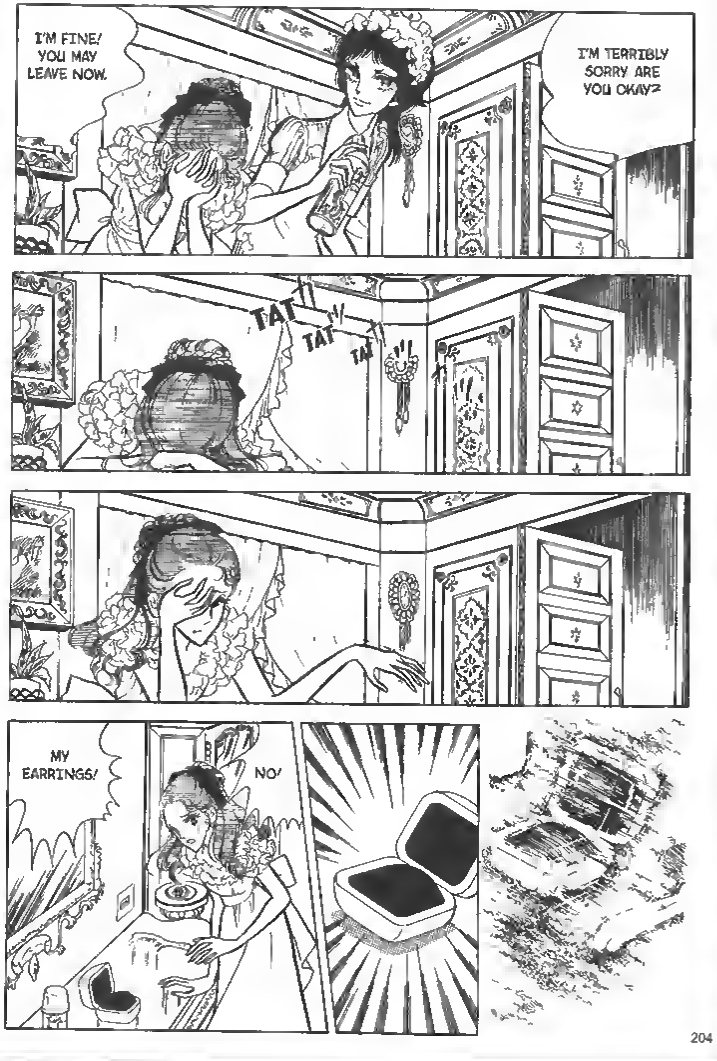
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
SWEETIE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
I'M SORRY, BABY I DIDN'T MEAN TO UPSET YOU
THIS IS OUR NIGHT TONIGHT! IT'S AN IMPORTANT NIGHT FOR BOTH OF US!
AND YOUR MIND IS PREOCCUPIED BY SOME OTHER WOMAN!?
IT'S ALL YOURS.
OH THANK YOU!
WHAT IS IT? CAN I OPEN IT?
THESE EARRINGS ARE BEAUTIFUL!
OH MY!
RUSTLE
POP
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
OH HER? SHE'S A NEWLY HIRED MAID. TOBIKO MORI IS HER NAME.
WHO'S SHE?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, BABY? YOU'RE THE HOST OF THIS PARTY TOO.
BUT...
HOW COULD SHE? THIS IS HER FIRST DAY HERE!
NOTHING.
IT JUST FELT LIKE SHE KNEW OF MY HABIT OF USING MATCHES OVER LIGHTERS.

I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY THEM ON!
WHAT GORGEOUS EARRINGS!
FSST
FSST
I'LL SPRAY IT A BIT AND YOU'LL BE ALL SET.
FSST
ACK!
FSST
FSST
IR
AY

LIKE THIS
I LOVE THEM! I'M GOING TO GO TRY THEM ON AND SHOW EVERYONE!
YOU LIKE 'EM?
I SHOULD PROBABLY TIE MY HAIR UP
OH! YOU CAME AT A PERFECT TIME CAN YOU GIVE ME A HAND?
SURE
EXCUSE ME I'VE BROUGHT SOME FLOWERS.

カチャ CLANK
カチャ CLANK
TOBIKO!
HAH!
CLANK
カチャ
カチャ
カチャ
GIVE ME BACK MY EARRINGS!
THOSE EARRINGS WERE IMPORTANT TO ME! NOW RETURN THEM!
DON'T BE FOOLISH! I KNOW YOU STOLE THEM!
カチャ
CLANK
EARRINGS? I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.




I'M FINE! YOU MAY LEAVE NOW.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ARE YOU OKAY?
TAT
TAT
TAT
MY EARRINGS!
NO!

TO... TOBIKO...
NOW...
EVEN IF I STOLE THOSE EARRINGS, I DON'T HAVE THE EARS TO WEAR THEM!
STOP!
NOW ARE YOU SATISFIED?!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ARE ACCUSING ME OF STEALING IN FRONT OF ALL THESE PEOPLE
IF YOU SAY YOU'RE INNOCENT THEN PROVE IT!
YOU LEFT THE ROOM AND THE EARRINGS WERE GONE.
I HONESTLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. DO YOU HAVE PROOF THAT I STOLE THEM FROM YOU?
WATCH CLOSELY!
I HAVE MY OWN FACE TO SAVE!
ZISH

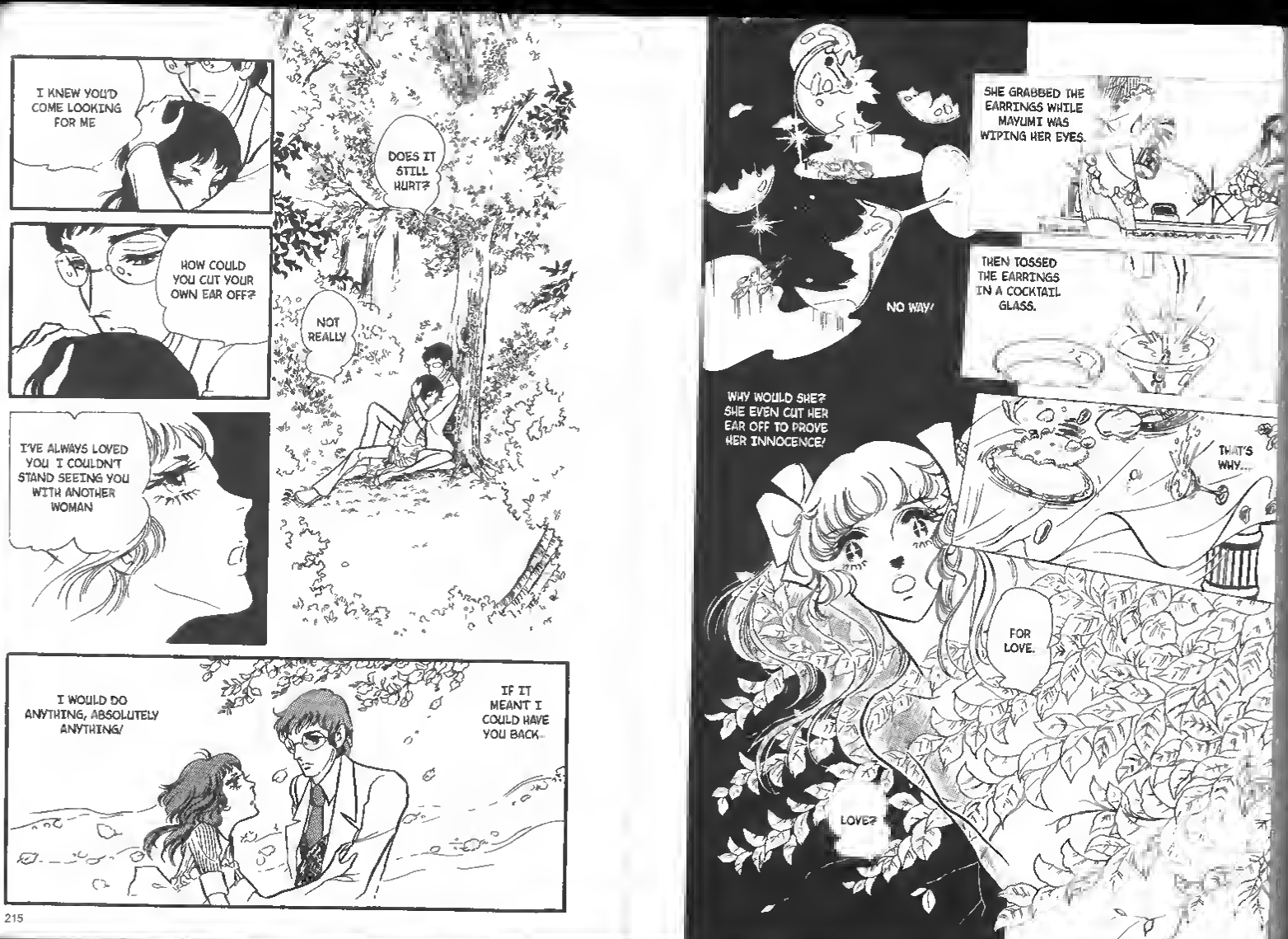
MAYUMI, ARE THESE THE EARRINGS YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
THOSE ARE THE EARRINGS I GAVE HER!
THE OTHER ONE IS OVER THERE...!

AUH
ARE YOU OKAY!
MAYUMI!
MAYUMI!
SLAY
GRAB

HOW IS IT THAT THE THING THAT WAS LOST BEFORE ENDS UP NEAR THE CASE YOU WERE HOLDING?
THEY REALLY DID GET LOST/
NO/ NO/
MAYUMI
YOU WRONGLY ACCUSED HER !
KEIICHI BELIEVE ME/
PLEASE/
WAIT/ PLEASE/ DON'T GO KEIICHI/
NO/ NO/ KEIICHI/
PLEASE/ BELIEVE ME/
WHAT YOU HAVE DONE TO TOBIKO CAN NEVER BE REPAID

SLAM
STOP... LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT...
I'LL APOLOGIZE TO TOBIKO.
I'LL DO AS TOBIKO DID.
NO/ MAYUMI/ NO/
GRIP

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL MAKING A FALSE ACCUSATION
YOU SAY I HID THE EARRINGS?
WHO ELSE OTHER THAN YOU WOULD DO ANYTHING TO ALTER ONE'S FATE?
TOBIKO MORI...
THAT WOMAN...
GUSH!
PLEASE... FORGIVE ME...


I KNEW YOU'D COME LOOKING FOR ME
HOW COULD YOU CUT YOUR OWN EAR OFF?
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU I COULDN'T STAND SEEING YOU WITH ANOTHER WOMAN
DOES IT STILL HURT?
NOT REALLY
I WOULD DO ANYTHING, ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING!
IF IT MEANT I COULD HAVE YOU BACK-
NO WAY!
SHE GRABBED THE EARRINGS WHILE MAYUMI WAS WIPING HER EYES.
THEN TOSSED THE EARRINGS IN A COCKTAIL GLASS.
WHY WOULD SHE? SHE EVEN CUT HER EAR OFF TO PROVE HER INNOCENCE!
THAT'S WHY...
FOR LOVE.
LOVE?

HOW DO YOU...!?
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE.
WE NEED TO CAPTURE IT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
I WANTED TO...
NO!
DEIMOS! YOU LET IT GO!
BUT IT ESCAPED ON ITS OWN
LOVE
CAN GIVE BIRTH TO MIRACLES

I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT BUT I FEEL A STRONG CONNECTION TO YOU
YOU'RE CHARMING.
YOU HATE ME?
NO, THE OPPOSITE.
WHY DO YOU SPEAK AS IF WE HAVE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR YEARS?
WE ONLY JUST MET.
YOU'RE MINE FOREVER!
I WON'T EVER LET GO OF YOU!
I'M SO HAPPY!
ONE OF THE WOLVES HAS ESCAPED!

KEIICHI LEFT MAYUMI FOR HIS NEW LOVE WITH TOBIKO.
TOBIKO ISN'T A WOLF.
FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF
LOOK AT THE EAR TOBIKO LEFT BEHIND!

TO A PLACE WHERE THEY WILL NEVER BE BOTHERED.
THEY SHOULD RUN TO WHERE THEY CAN LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
NO!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOUR STORIES!
KEIICHI AND THE BEAUTIFUL WOLF

LOOK AT HOW MUCH I'VE COLLECTED!
VUMP
MA. MAYU-MI...
THESE
I'LL COLLECT AS MANY EARS AS THERE ARE IN THE WORLD!
EVERY WOMAN SHALL END UP LIKE TOBIKO!
THAT WAY SHE WON'T FEEL SO BAD ABOUT ONLY HAVING ONE EAR

THE EAR?
I KNOW THIS MUST BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE EAR
OF COURSE. I'LL SHOW YOU!

School is Back in Session!
ONEGAI TEACHER
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BRIDE OF DEIMOS VOL. 5
THE END